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The Power of Good

India & China partners, not rivals: Modi, Xi

US tariffs: Kashmiri carpet manufacturers fear the worst

Business, Page 8

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LIC / P1 / 2025 - 26 / 16 / Eng

Rajasthan to table stricter anti-conversion bill in Assembly

JAIPUR, PTI: The Rajasthan government will introduce a more stringent version of a bill to curb religious conversions carried out through coercion, misrepresentation or fraudulent means in the assembly session that starts from Monday.

The proposed legislation includes tough penalties for offenders, with imprisonment ranging from seven to fourteen years and a minimum fine of Rs 5 lakh in general cases. For cases of mass conversion, the bill proposes imprisonment from 20 years to life and a minimum fine of Rs 25 lakh.

State Law and Legal Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel said that Rajasthan currently has no specific law to address illegal conversions. The earlier version of the bill, introduced in the previous session, will now be withdrawn and replaced with a revised draft containing stricter provisions.

The new draft of the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Bill, 2025, was approved during a meeting of the state Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Sunday.

The minister said that the bill prohibits any person or organisation from inducing religious conversion through deception, force, undue influence or fraudulent methods.

Tribal population to be kept out of proposed UCC's ambit: Rijiju

NEW DELHI, PTI: Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said the tribal population of the northeast and other areas of the country will be kept out of the ambit of the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) so that they can live their lives "freely" according to their systems.

Speaking at an event organised by RSS-affiliate Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram here, he clarified the Union government's stand on the issue, saying that "some people create a bizarre atmosphere on social media".

"Being a Union minister, I want to share the stand of our government. Our government and party (BJP) think about (bringing) a UCC in the country as per the Constitution. When criminal law is equal for all, why should the civil law also not be (equal for everyone)," the minister said.

He said some states have initiated work in this regard.

Equal work, unequal pay: Guj professors triumph after years of struggle

SC verdict brings relief from state government's 'economic exploitation'

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

"You have no idea what kind of hardship I've endured since joining the service on a contractual basis back in 2012. And I'm not alone—there are hundreds of youngsters like me. Many couldn't sustain themselves and resigned, taking up other jobs just to survive," said an assistant professor at a Gujarat government-run engineering college. He spoke to *DH* on condition of anonymity, fearing that the government might misconstrue his remarks and terminate his services.

He was among the petitioners who approached the Supreme Court seeking "equal pay for equal work". Their primary contention was that contractual workers, despite performing identical duties and responsibilities, were paid less than those appointed on an ad hoc or regular basis.

On August 22, in a landmark judgment, the apex court directed the Gujarat government to provide the petitioners with a minimum pay scale on par with regular assistant professors. The court observed that it was "disturbing that assistant professors are getting monthly emoluments of Rs 30,000."

"I don't have exact figures, but there was a time when there were over 600 assistant professors like me. Today, there are barely 200. Many were terminated, many resigned, and a few managed to crack the Gujarat Public Service Commission (GPSC) exam to become regular faculty. But for those of us who have stayed, surviving on Rs 30,000 a month — without any service benefits like paid leave, provident fund or other entitlements—life is a constant struggle," said the assistant professor.

A retired IAS officer noted that since the early 2000s, the state government has been relying on contractual or fixed-pay employees across departments, be it education, health or revenue services. Even in policing, the government has leaned heavily on fixed-pay arrangements, appointing constables and other lower-rank personnel on a contractual basis.

The petitioners had moved the SC, pointing out that while contractual workers had been paid a meagre Rs 30,000 per month since 2008, ad hoc and regular professors received Rs 1.16 lakh and Rs 1.37 lakh per month, respectively.

If the state government revises the pay scale following the verdict, contractual assistant professors could receive between Rs 80,000 and Rs 90,000 a month.

Oppn welcomes ruling

The Opposition Congress welcomed the court's decision and criticised the state government, saying that "its policy has been to economically exploit the youth of the state for years".

"For the past 15–20 years, over seven lakh employees across various government departments, ministries and boards and corporations have been working on contract, falling victim to economic exploitation," said Manish Doshi, media convener of the Gujarat Congress.

In its judgment, the apex court observed, "It is simply not enough to keep reciting Gurubrahma Gururvishnu Gurudevo Maheshwarah at public functions. If we truly believe in this invocation, it must be reflected in how the nation treats its teachers."

Wayanad tunnel work begins amid green alarm

Kerala CM inaugurates Rs 2,134-crore project

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The much-awaited and widely publicised Wayanad tunnel project was formally inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday, amid serious ecological concerns on one hand and the pressing need to ease transport woes in the high-range district on the other.

The 8.11-kilometre twin-tunnel road, set to be the third longest in the country, is envisioned as an alternative to the Thamarassery Ghat Road, a crucial stretch of NH-766 that connects Karnataka and Kerala. Once completed, the tunnel linking Meppadi in Wayanad to Anakkampoyil in Kozhikode is expected to reduce travel distance by around 30 kilometres and save at least 90 minutes of commute time.

CM Vijayan said the work was commencing after several hurdles.

Meanwhile, environmentalists have approached the Kerala High Court, citing environmental hazards and technical flaws in the clearances granted for the project. In an interim order, the HC noted that all further steps related to the project would be subject to the outcome of the writ petition.

The need for an alternative route to the Thamarassery Ghat road became evident after recent landslips disrupted traffic and stranded hundreds of vehicles. Given Wayanad's limited health infrastructure, residents often rely on hospitals in Kozhikode. Any project that enhances connectivity for the high-range district has become a necessity.

However, serious ecological concerns surrounding the tunnel project have been flagged, even by the state and central expert panels that granted environmental clearance. The Meppadi region, where the tunnel is set to begin, has witnessed several landslides over the years, including last year's Chooralmala–Mundakkai landslide, which claimed 300 lives.

The Wayanad Prakrithi Samrakshana Samithi, which has moved the court, cites the absence of Stage-II forest clearance for the project and alleges suppression of the crucial fact that the project area includes regions designated as protected areas.

The Kerala government aims to complete the Rs 2,134-crore project within four years.

A woman at her flooded home after heavy rain in Punjab's Hoshiarpur. PTI

Fresh rain in flood-hit states

NEW DELHI, PTI

Fresh downpour in parts of India on Sunday compounded the woes of some flood-ravaged states, where swollen rivers inundated new areas, roads were blocked, and educational institutions were closed.

Punjab, which has been hit by flash floods, received fresh rain. In Uttarakhand, a rain-triggered landslide blocked the tunnels of a power project in Pithoragarh, trapping 11 people.

In Himachal Pradesh, rescuers braced for more arduous work as the met department issued a "red" alert for very heavy to extremely heavy rains over the next three days and warned of landslides, flash floods, and land subsidence.

A cloudburst near Chennai, Tamil Nadu, brought heavy rain to the city and led to the diversion of flights.

Respite from the inclement weather was unlikely soon, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) saying that the country was likely to receive above-normal rainfall in September. This might trigger landslides and flash floods in Uttarakhand and could disrupt normal life in South Haryana, Delhi, and North Rajasthan.

Rain lashed several parts of Punjab and more was likely in the coming days, according to the met department.

In Kapurthala, the administration issued an alert asking people in the Sultanpur Lodhi area to move to safer places. The Patiala district administration asked people not to go near the banks of the Ghaggar and Tangri rivers.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release Rs 60,000 crore of the "state's funds", which he claimed were "stuck" with the Central government. Meanwhile, the state government on Sunday extended the closure of schools till September 3 due to the floods.

Punjab reportedly received 253.7 mm of rain in August, 74% over normal and the state's highest in 25 years.

Red alert

The meteorological centre in Shimla issued a "red" alert for very heavy to extremely heavy rains in four to six districts of HP from Sunday to Tuesday. It warned of landslides, flash floods, land subsidence, waterlogging and swelling of water bodies.

Himachal Pradesh received 72% excess rain in August. From June 20, the onset of monsoon in the state, to August 30, Himachal Pradesh witnessed 91 flash floods, 45 cloudbursts and 95 major landslides, said the State Emergency Operation Centre.

Kashmir's Sonmarg, Zojila covered with unseasonal snow

SRINAGAR, DHNS: In a rare weather event for this time of the year, Sonamarg hill station and Zojila pass in Kashmir have been blanketed under nearly a foot of snow, transforming the meadows and mountain passes into stunning winter-like landscapes even as the Valley remains in the grip of late summer.

The fresh spell of snow in the higher reaches last week has surprised both locals and tourists, with thick flakes settling on the famed meadows of Sonamarg and the strategic Zojila Pass on the Srinagar–Leh highway. Traffic movement along the stretch was disrupted for a few days before authorities pressed in snow-clearance machines.

According to officials of the Meteorological Department, early snowfall has also been recorded in several other upper reaches of Kashmir and Ladakh, including Gulmarg's Affarwat peaks, Gurez, Drass, and Kargil. "This is unusual for late August, but western disturbances triggered precipitation at higher altitudes. The system is expected to weaken in the coming days," a MeT official said.

While tourists were delighted at the unexpected "white summer," residents expressed concern over the premature onset of snow.

"This is beautiful to see, but worrying for our orchards and crops in the Valley. Weather extremes are becoming more common," said Abdul Majeed, an apple grower from Ganderbal.

The early snowfall, though picturesque, has raised questions about changing weather patterns in the Himalayas, where erratic precipitation and untimely snow spells have become increasingly frequent in recent years.

Meanwhile, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra remained suspended for the sixth consecutive day on Sunday. A devastating landslide occurred near the Vaishno Devi temple in Katra, Reasi district, on Tuesday, claiming 34 lives and injuring over a dozen people.

Shah in Jammu to assess flood situation

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reached here to assess the situation in the aftermath of the heavy rain and flash floods in Jammu and Kashmir that left a trail of death and destruction.

The home minister is scheduled to chair a high-level meeting at the Raj Bhawan on Monday to review relief measures, officials said.

11 workers trapped in tunnel after Uttarakhand landslide

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Eleven workers at the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation's (NHPC) Dhauliganga Power Project were trapped inside a tunnel after a landslide in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.

The workers were inside the tunnel when its normal and emergency openings were blocked following a landslide, reports said.

Initially, 19 workers were trapped, but later eight of them were rescued by the administration.

Sub-divisional officer (SDO) of Dharchula, Jitendra Verma, said that heavy machines had been pressed into service to remove the debris and expressed hope that the remaining workers would be brought out later in the evening on Sunday.

Reports said the landslide was caused by heavy rains and that the debris was still falling from the hills, hampering rescue operations.

Verma said that all the workers were safe and that power generation from the plant was normal. "There was enough food inside the tunnel for the workers, and there is no cause for worry... the work of removing the debris was going on in full swing," he added.

Uttarakhand had been hit by a spate of landslides and cloudbursts in the past few days following heavy rains. A series of cloudbursts had hit several districts in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions in the state on Friday, resulting in the death of five people, while several others were reported missing.

Several roads were blocked after boulders from the hills blocked them following landslides in many regions.

DH DECIPHERS

How Trump's visa policy shift could hit Indians

After slapping 50% tariffs on Indian goods, the Donald Trump administration is planning to tweak H-1B and student visa policies. **Sumit Pande** *explains how the proposed changes could impact Indians in specialty professions and students aspiring to pursue higher education in the US.*

What is an H-1B visa?
The H-1B visa allows US employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations, or as fashion models of distinguished merit and ability. It is a non-immigrant visa that requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent in a specific field. To obtain a visa under this category, the applicant must demonstrate that the job they will perform in the US requires the theoretical and practical application of specialised knowledge.

What are specialised occupations?
The US State Department defines a specialty occupation as one that "requires the application of a body of highly specialised knowledge and the attainment of at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent". The programme was designed to enable US companies to hire qualified individuals who are not otherwise authorised to work in the US.

What are the eligibility criteria for an H-1B visa?
An H-1B visa application must be sponsored by the US employer of the foreign worker, accompanied by mandatory petitions submitted to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). To protect US citizens having similar skill sets, companies sponsoring H-1B visas must attest that wages paid to the H-1B workers would be at least equal to the wages paid to US employees with similar experience and qualifications.

What changes are being proposed in the H-1B visa policy?
US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick claims the current programme is a "scam" that eats into the job opportunities for US citizens. One of the changes under consideration is the scrapping of lottery-based allocation of visas under, which allows a level playing field for mid-level employees and companies. The new policy could prioritise visa applications based on high remuneration and specialised skills.

Why are H-1B visas most sought after?
For employers, the visas offer a global pool of highly skilled talent, especially in the fields of technology and sciences that may not be available in the US workforce. For employees, a work permit under the programme opens up a host of opportunities to work in their field of expertise. The visa is also seen as a potential pathway to a green card or permanent residency.

Are student visas also under review?
Since the seventies, foreign students have been allowed to stay in the US till they are enrolled in any educational institution. The Trump administration is considering setting fixed time limits for student or F-1 visas, which would introduce an element of uncertainty for those intending to pursue higher studies in the US. The White House also plans to shorten the duration of visas issued to cultural exchange visitors and media. Around 79,000 Indian students arrived in the US in July 2025, a drop of nearly 29%.

How do the changes affect India?
More than two-thirds of the H-1B visas are currently issued to Indians, especially those associated with the IT sector. A policy change could impact job opportunities for Indians, especially in mid-level companies and start-ups. About two-thirds of the H-1B visa workforce is for tech jobs. In 2026, as per the existing provisions, 65,000 regular H-1B visas would be granted.

PITCH PEACE

Pulwama swaps gunfire for cricket cheers; wins PM's praise

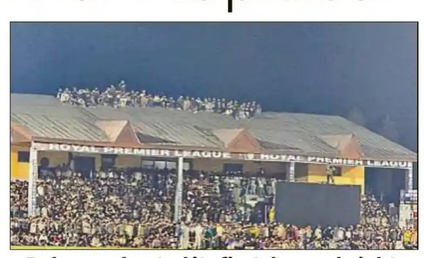
ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Once known as the hotbed of militancy in south Kashmir, Pulwama, home to some of the Valley's most dreaded commanders over the last decade, is now scripting a new chapter. On August 25, Pulwama hosted its first-ever day-night cricket match as part of the Rahmoo Premier League (RPL), drawing thousands of spectators and earning praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Pulwama had long been synonymous with the insurgency. It was here that Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, whose killing in 2016 sparked months of unrest, rose to prominence.

In subsequent years, the district produced other high-profile militants, including the the Jaish suicide bomber behind the 2019 Pulwama attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel.

Against this backdrop of blood and violence, the sight of floodlit cricket in the same soil was a dramatic contrast. "Thousands of people, especially youth, enjoying cricket at night in Pulwama — it was a sight to behold," Prime Minister Modi said during the 125th episode of *Mann Ki Baat*.



Pulwama hosted its first day and night cricket league. DDNEWS ON X

MLA Pulwama Waheed Parra, who attended the opening match until the last ball, described the initiative as "a game-changer" for not just Pulwama but the whole of J&K. "We have 65% of our population under 30, scarred by conflict and uncertainty. These matches create a space where our youth can heal, aspire and reclaim hope," he said and added that the event was organised despite limited facilities.

"We don't have proper stadiums or equipment — everything here was rented. Yet, the passion of the players and the crowd shows what is possible," Parra added.

After 35 years, Ganesh rath yatra held in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, PTI: Kashmiri Pandits of the Valley took out a 'rath yatra' as part of Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, a first since the eruption of militancy 35 years ago.

The procession began from the Ganpatyar temple in the Habba Kadal area of the city here. The Pandit community also undertook Ganpati visarjan in the Jhelum.

"A rath yatra was taken out from Ganpatyar temple and Ganesh ji was immersed in the Jhelum," activist Sanjay Tickoo said.

Tickoo said the procession was "the first time after the eruption of militancy" in the Valley. "We prayed that natural disasters stop and all people, irrespective of caste, creed or religion, live together with love. We prayed that we are safeguarded from such natural disasters."

The Kashmiri Pandit leader said the community has been organising Ganpati Visarjan in the Valley for the past three years.

Bengaluru Monday, September 1, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 242 ₹7

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Szoboszlai screamer sees Liverpool home

Page 12

MOVING FORWARD

- Both leaders commit to a fair, mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question
- While Modi stresses peace, Xi seeks to de-link dispute from other aspects of relations
- Modi notes that India-China cooperation is linked to the interests of 2.8 billion people
- Agree to expand common ground on fair trade and terrorism in multilateral platforms

Modi, Xi agree: India and China partners

Restarting Army patrols in buffer zones not discussed

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and China are development partners and not rivals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping agreed on Sunday, even as the two nations continued to have large numbers of soldiers deployed on both sides of the disputed boundary.

Modi and Xi met in Tianjin in northern China but refrained from discussing the issue of restarting patrolling by the Indian Army in multiple buffer zones created along the LAC to resolve the stand-off.

"After the disengagement at the border, an atmosphere of peace and stability is now in place," Modi told Xi. He underlined the importance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas for the continued development of bilateral relations.

PM Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping during a bilateral meeting in Tianjin, China. AFP/PIB

> After the disengagement at the border, an atmosphere of peace and stability is now in place
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

Xi, however, sought to delink the boundary dispute from the other aspects of the relations between the two neighbours.

China and India "should work together to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and not let the border issue define the overall relationship," Xi told Modi during the bilateral meeting ahead of the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a 10-member bloc led by China and Russia.

As the two leaders met amid the trade turmoil caused by US President Donald Trump, they recognised the role of the Indian and Chinese economies in stabilising global commerce. They agreed to expand common ground on fair trade and terrorism in multilateral platforms.

Modi, Page 4

Wage bill Rs 137 cr a year: GBA system needs 1,200 more staff

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's new governance experiment—the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and five municipal corporations—will come with a higher price tag.

The city's sanctioned civic workforce is expected to grow by more than 1,200, costing the exchequer an additional Rs 137 crore a year.

Activists, however, believe that more staff do not necessarily translate into better services.

With the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) set to cease functioning from September 2, the state government is working on a new organisational structure for both the GBA — a first-of-its-kind apex body — and the five municipal corporations carved out of Bengaluru.

However, there is no clarity yet on the final number of wards, as officials are weighing the pros and cons of different figures ranging from 300 to as many as 500.

Currently, the BBMP has 18,790 employees against the sanctioned strength of 22,411. Under the new system, the total requirement is estimated to touch 23,689, an increase of 1,278 from the existing sanctioned strength. Since the BBMP is short-staffed, there will be a need to recruit nearly 4,900 employees to meet the sanctioned strength under the new structure.

Current strength	Sanctioned strength	Estimated requirement
18,790	22,411	23,689

Requirements

314 GBA	107 B-SMILE

2,163-4,315 Each corpn

Largest group
16,807 Sanitation workers (No. to remain same)

New recruitments in finance and accounts, town planning, information technology, legal affairs, public health, survey and revenue (fig are likely to vary based on ward nos)

▸ **GBA, Page 4**

Modi likely to visit Manipur in Sept

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit violence-hit Manipur mid-September.

If it happens, it would be the first time in 28 months that Modi will set foot in the state after tribal violence flared up between Meiteis and Kukis.

The Opposition has been targeting Modi for not visiting the state.

P 10

Dharmasthala SIT continues mahazar

The SIT probing the 'mass burial' in Dharmasthala continued on Sunday the mahazar proceedings in Bengaluru. The SIT team took the complainant-witness to a service apartment in Vidyaranyapura where he had allegedly stayed. The SIT also inspected ledgers and tried to access CCTV footage.

P 3

NGO 'Educate Girls' wins Magsaysay

The Foundation to Educate Girls Globally, widely known as 'Educate Girls', has made history as the first Indian non-profit to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award. 'Educate Girls' was founded by Safeena Husain. The other winners are Shaahina Ali (Maldives) and Flaviano L Villanueva (Philippines).

P 10

High on confidence, Oppn to conclude Bihar yatra today

I.N.D.I.A leaders to join 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Patna

SHEMIN JOY
PATNA, DHNS

I.N.D.I.A bloc's Voter Adhikar Yatra in Bihar will culminate here on Monday with Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav and other Opposition leaders marching from the iconic Gandhi Maidan to the Ambedkar statue with a vow to resist "vote chori" (vote theft) and setting the stage for next phase of poll campaigning.

This will be the Opposition's second major 'padayatra' in Patna in less than two months — the first being the march to the Chief Electoral Officer's office on July 9 against the SIR.

The initial plan was to hold a rally at the Gandhi Maidan but it was changed to 'Gandhi se Ambedkar' padayatra, as the parties felt a march would be more effective after they reviewed the response the 'yatra' had received while covering around 110 Assembly seats.

A cutout of Rahul Gandhi, in Patna, on Sunday. PTI

▸ **Bihar yatra, Page 4**

2L applications to remove names: EC

With just one day left for filing objections during the SIR, the Election Commission on Sunday said it has received 2.07 lakh applications for removing names from the electoral rolls.

Details on Page 10

EC rejected 89L complaints: Khera, Page 10

September to see above-normal rainfall, warns IMD

NEW DELHI, PTI: India is likely to receive above-normal rainfall in September, capping a season that has already seen several disasters in many parts of the country.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday that the monthly average rainfall in September is expected to be more than 109% of the long-period average of 167.9 mm.

The forecast suggests most regions will get normal to above-normal rainfall, while some parts of the northeast and east, many areas of extreme south peninsular India and pockets of northwest India are likely to record below-normal rain.

Addressing an online presser, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra warned that heavy rainfall in September may trigger flash floods in Uttarakhand.

▸ **IMD, Page 4**

Heavy-rain alert for state

The IMD has forecast heavy rainfall for parts of the state, with the intensity expected to reduce after three days. An 'orange alert' has been issued for the coast.

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Woman abused for feeding strays; FIR filed

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman in southeastern Bengaluru was allegedly abused for feeding stray dogs, police officials said on Sunday.

The Parappana Agrahara police registered an FIR on August 28 on a complaint by Neha Parween from Choodasandra.

The FIR stated that Neha has been feeding strays in her apartment for nearly four years, which some residents allegedly opposed.

On August 27, around 4 pm, Neha and her father went to feed the strays when residents Salim, Sudha, Kavita, Aminul Rehman, and Vinod allegedly abused and threatened them. They also hit the strays, the FIR noted.

The five were booked under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for wrongful restraint, criminal intimidation, and cruelty to animals. Further probe is underway.

Habitual drug peddler nabbed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Chamarajpet police arrested a 28-year-old habitual offender in the city for possession and sale of banned narcotic substances under the NDPS Act.

The suspect, Syed Mubarak alias Mubbu bin Syed Akkal, from Chamarajpet, is a listed 'A' category rowdy-sheeter involved in collecting, transporting, and selling marijuana.

The police said that despite multiple arrests in cases registered at the Chamarajpet, Annapoorneshwarinagar, and Yelahanka stations, Mubarak continued drug trafficking after being released on bail.

Officials noted that his fearless involvement in the illicit trade made it difficult to control his activities through ordinary legal measures.

On August 29, the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner issued a warrant. Mubarak was arrested and remanded to Bellary Jail.

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Snake breeding season slithers into city; rescuers urge caution

Ask residents not to attempt catching reptiles on their own

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the hatching season underway, snake sightings have gone up in Bengaluru. The recent death of a 41-year-old software engineer from a snake bite has prompted rescuers to issue precautions.

Prasanna Kumar A, President of Wildlife Conservation Society, said, "Shoes resemble the burrows of snakes and hence they are to be found there. Residents in independent houses are more prone to snake attacks than those in apartments."

Rescuers noted that cobras and Russell's vipers are breeding now, and snakelets often enter shoes and closed chappals in search of food and warmth. They warned that snakelets are equally venomous.

"It is a common myth that snakelets are not capable of killing people. They are equally dangerous and are capable of killing about four to eight people," said another rescuer.

Hari, a city rescuer, said many people attempt to catch snakes themselves, risking bites.

Das, another rescuer, added, "In apartments, they call us once or twice and then the guards or gardeners try to catch it themselves. The next call we get is that they are bitten."

Snake Shivu, also a rescuer, said snakes are often found in areas with clutter such as unused shoes and cardboard boxes.

Ward committee member Vidya Goggi pointed out that residents lack guidance. "When we spot a snake, all we do is give a call to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)," she said.

What you should do

1. Do not attempt to catch snakes. Call the fire brigade or rescuers. **Prasanna Kumar:** 9902794711 **Das:** 9964917651
2. Do not kill snakes as it is punishable by law.
3. After calling rescuers, track the snake's movement from at least 10 feet away.
4. Avoid open shoe stands or keep them indoors.
5. Keep surroundings clean as junk attracts snakes.

A Russell's viper. FILE PHOTO

Knife-wielding man enters PG; robs woman of Rs 2,500 & flees

BENGALURU, DHNS: A knife-wielding man entered a paying guest facility in southeastern Bengaluru, touched a woman inappropriately and fled after robbing her, police officials said on Sunday.

The incident occurred on August 29.

The complainant, a 21-year-old woman, stays at Laxmana Durga Ladies PG in BTM 1st Stage.

According to the FIR registered on August 29 by the Suddaguntepalya police, between 3 am and 4 am, the woman felt someone had entered her room, but assumed it was her roommate who had returned late from work. She felt someone touch her legs and hands and was startled to see a man in the room.

When she saw the man holding the knife and screamed, he allegedly threatened her to keep quiet and hit her a few times, the FIR noted.

The man, who had locked another room from the outside, fled after stealing Rs 2,500 from the complainant's room.

CCTV footage accessed by *DH* showed the man, who covered his face with a handkerchief, attacking the woman.

She chased him out of her room. He then fled via the same staircase he used to enter the PG. The man was inside the room for nearly two minutes. An investigation is underway, officials said.

Residents protest against Lingadheeranahalli waste plant

BENGALURU, DHNS

Residents of Banashankari 6th Stage on Sunday took out a procession, demanding the Lingadheeranahalli solid waste management plant be shifted out of their neighbourhood.

Political party members also backed the demand.

The protest, called Parisara Jagruti Jaatha, described the plant as a health hazard.

Residents complained of toxic odour, houseflies and mosquitoes, and said the facility was affecting their health. Local leaders and environment experts addressed the gathering, urging protection of the environment.

Residents of Banashankari 6th Stage took out a procession on Sunday. DH PHOTO

Protesters alleged that the BBMP transports wet waste from across wards to the plant, where processing is carried out unscientifically. They recalled that the National Green Tribunal had earlier fined the BBMP Rs 10 lakh for causing environmental damage.

They also said the plant lacks a functional leachate treatment system and odour control measures. "Our complaints to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board are not getting any response."

Stories on cards: Japanese theatre captivates children in Cubbon Park

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bal Vedike in Cubbon Park came alive on Sunday with Kamishibai (pronounced Kah-mee-she-bye), a Japanese street theatre form using illustrated picture cards to tell stories.

Rooted in Japan's visual storytelling traditions, Kamishibai emerged in the 1920s and continues to charm audiences worldwide. The event was organised by the Indian Kamishibai Association (IKA), founded in 2021 by storyteller Ramya Srinidhi.

Children and parents gathered at Bal Bhavan to enjoy the session, where five storytellers performed under the tree, making it interactive for the kids.

Children and parents gathered at Bal Bhavan on Sunday to enjoy a session of Kamishibai. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Rs 1,500 breakfast allowance for 700 BWSSB sanitation workers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will reimburse 700 sanitation workers Rs 1,500 a month for breakfast through smart cards issued in partnership with Axis Bank.

Workers can use the cards at food outlets of their choice.

The scheme, named Annapoorna, will be launched on Monday by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, when the cards will be distributed.

BWSSB chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said the initiative is aimed at supporting workers' daily nutrition. Some workers, however, questioned why the amount is not added directly to their salaries instead of issuing an extra card.

Man climbs mobile tower, demands missing wife be found

Gets down after two hours of effort by the police

BENGALURU, DHNS

A construction worker created panic on Sunday evening by climbing a 150-foot mobile tower near Anekal, demanding that the police find his missing wife.

At 5 pm, Chiranjeevi, the worker, called the 112 emergency helpline, threatening to jump unless his wife Roja returned home. The police traced his location, and fire department officials rushed to the spot.

Chiranjeevi accused Harish, his landlord, of having an affair with Roja and demanded his presence. Though Harish denied the allegation, Chiranjeevi refused to climb down. Even as rain lashed the tower, Chiranjeevi stayed put, shivering and continuing to speak to the police over the phone.

For nearly two hours, the Attibele police inspector negotiated with him. Chiranjeevi finally agreed to descend after the inspector promised before his house god that Roja would be found. He got down around 7.30 pm.

The man seen climbing down from the cellphone tower near Anekal. DH PHOTO

The police said he was drunk during the incident. His suspicions began three days ago when he saw Roja in Harish's car. He later assaulted her, after which she recorded a video and fled on August 30.

A missing persons case has been registered.

"The family dispute turned into an emergency call, as the suspicious husband dialled 112 to bring back his missing wife, otherwise he would jump from the tower. It took two hours of convincing to make him come down from the top of the tower. This incident reminds us that anger may win the moment, but patience and dialogue save lives," CK Baba, Bengaluru Rural SP, told *DH*.

Total lunar eclipse on Sept 7 & 8

BENGALURU, DHNS: Astronomy enthusiasts in Bengaluru can witness a total lunar eclipse on September 7 and 8, visible across India.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium said, "No special equipment is needed to view the lunar eclipse. It is safe to view through an unaided eye. The public can view this eclipse from their respective places, provided the sky is clear. This eclipse is visible all over India."

On September 7, the penumbral eclipse begins at 8.58 pm, partial eclipse at 9.57 pm, total eclipse at 11 pm, and maximum eclipse at 11.41 pm.

On September 8, the total eclipse ends at 12.22 am, partial eclipse at 1.26 am, and penumbral eclipse at 2.25 am.

K'TAKA'S CULINARY HERITAGE

43 flavours, 1 winner: Ragi dessert steals the show at cuisine contest

BENGALURU, DHNS

The fourth season of the 'Cuisines of Karnataka' cooking challenge, organised by *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani*, was held at Lulu Mall, Rajajinagar, on Sunday.

Celebrity chef and TV host Oggarane Dabbi Murali, along with his wife Suchithra, judged the contest where 43 participants showcased their culinary skills.

Elizabeth H, a housewife from Ramamurthy Nagar, clinched the first prize and Rs 10,000 for her innovative ragi dessert, praised for its creativity and presentation. Judges lauded her use of ragi pairu (ragi flowers) to decorate the dish.

The second prize went to Uma Jagannath from Sadashivanagar for her distinctive 'Rava Chicken Bath', while Savitha S from Vijayanagar bagged the third place for her coastal delicacy, 'Jackfruit Kottige' (jackfruit rice cake).

The event featured a variety of regional dishes, from Vildele Rasam (betel rasam) and Hagalkayi Chithranna (bittergourd lemon rice) to Kharada Holige (spicy boli) and neer dose with chicken sukku.

Participants ranged from 19-year-old Shreya A, who cooked Rava Kodubale (ring murukku) with her grandmother, to 78-year-old BR Gowramma Srinivas, who presented Kharada Kadabu (spicy rice cake).

The contest also saw the chef couple impress the audience by whipping up garlic butter paneer in under five minutes. "This is a good platform to showcase your cooking skills," said Suchithra.

Supported by Indane, TTK Prestige, Bhima Jewellers, Lays, SBI Card, Vencobb Chicken, and Eco Crystal Water Treatment, the event concluded with winners receiving cash prizes and gift hampers.

(L-R): Harsh Rustogi (Brand Manager, Freedom Oil) with the winners – Savitha, Uma Jagannath and Elizabeth – and judges Suchitra and Murali. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Book Release: 'The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath' by Amish Tripathi; Sapna Book House, Koramangala; 4 pm.

CULTURAL

Satsang: Nirmalanandanath Swamiji, Soumyanath Swamiji and MG Balakrishna to attend; Organised by the Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Sir MV Hall, FKCCI, KG Road; 5 pm.

Ganeshotsava: Organised by Bangalore Advocate Friends Circle and Advocates' Association Bangalore; Lawyers Association, High Court Unit Hall-1; 1.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

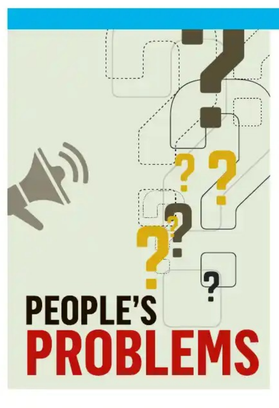
FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	0.6 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	77%
Sunset (Sep 1)	6:32 pm
Sunrise (Sep 2)	6:09 am
Moonrise	12:31 am
Moonset	11:59 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD



Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner.

Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @deccanherald.co.in

Garbage strewn around is an eyesore, creating an unhygienic environment.

Garbage on road divider in Muthyalanagar

I would like to highlight the significant accumulation of waste on the road dividers along 100 Feet Road near the Chowdeshwari bus stand towards Muthyalanagar.

We request your intervention to find a permanent solution to this issue. Possible solutions could include gardening the entire stretch, installing steel fencing/grills, or removing the three-foot-wide divider entirely.

Nikhil Joy
Muthyalanagar

Counters for Bescom payments

In Sanjaynagar area, making Bescom bill payments are difficult for those who do not have PhonePe facilities. Hitherto, consumers of the area were well served by a receiving counter service behind Radha Krishna temple. But now, for reasons best known to the authorities, the counter is closed and consumers have to go to the Bangalore One centre at New BEL Road, which was also shifted recently.

Bescom has to reopen the counter or Bangalore One centre.

The authorities must do this on priority basis.

VS Ganeshan
AECS Layout

BWSSB work causes mess in KR Puram

Over two months ago, the BWSSB dug up the floor of the stormwater drain in Jai Bhuvaneswari Layout, 5th Cross, near Cambridge Institute of Technology, KR Puram, to lay new pipelines.

BWSSB workers placed sandbags, obstructing the flow of the stormwater drain. During rains, water from the drain overflows onto the road and breeds mosquitoes.

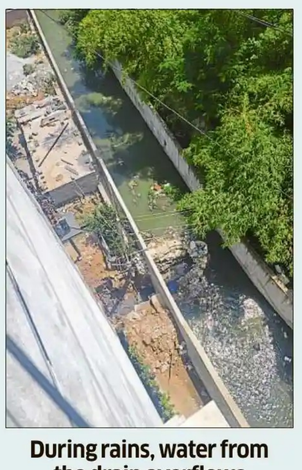
The BWSSB contractor also dug up the road next to a hanging electricity pole. He tried to fix this by tying the pole with a rope.

Despite a complaint filed with the Bescom and the BWSSB, no corrective measure has been taken.

The BWSSB digging has blocked the side road along with the stormwater drain and left the electricity pole hanging. The pole could fall to strong winds and result in a disaster.

I hope the BWSSB and Bescom fix both the road and the pole soon.

Swamulu Chennupati
KR Puram



During rains, water from the drain overflows onto the road.

Rampant rat menace

The Aircraft Employees Co-operative Society (AECS) Layout, Kundalahalli, is one of the fast growing wards in the IT hub.

Of late, AECS Layout is plagued by rampant rat menace.

The primary cause, perhaps, may be rapid urbanisation, construction, breeding grounds in unfinished sites and poor waste management. As a result, rats have increased in number. They are digging holes and gnawing at sewage pipes, getting into vehicles and chewing on electrical wires as well as fuel pipes.

Furthermore, this rat menace is a health hazard. The BBMP is requested to take preventive measures to address this issue at the earliest.

HVK Bhatta
AECS Layout, Kundalahalli

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Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving
Holy Spirit Prayer
Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and shows me the way to reaching my ideals, You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and Who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be, I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. To that end and submitting to God's holy will, I ask from You.....etc (your reqest)

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D'sthala SIT continues mahazar in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala on Sunday continued the mahazar proceedings in Bengaluru.

The SIT team took the complainant witness to a service apartment in Vidyaranyapura in north Bengaluru where he allegedly stayed. The SIT team also included scene of crime officers (SOCO) and forensic analysts. The SIT team also inspected the ledgers and tried to access the CCTV footage, sources said. The SIT is yet to reveal what was recovered during the searches.

On Saturday, the team arrived in Bengaluru along with the complainant-witness and took him to the rented house of Jayanath T, another person who came forward later as a witness, in Peenya area on the outskirts of Bengaluru for mahazar proceedings.

The complainant-witness, who is still under witness protection, was recently arrested by the SIT on charges of perjury. He is currently under their custody.

Yellow Line sustains 60k ridership despite low frequency

Passengers more on weekdays, evening hours

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Since the inauguration of Namma Metro Yellow Line on August 10, the stretch running between RV Road and Bommasandra has been garnering an average daily ridership of 60,000, a well-placed Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) confirmed to *DH*.

In the initial days since its launch, the Yellow Line saw a ridership of 50,000 to 58,000, and in the weeks that followed, the ridership saw an uptick, despite the BMRCL operating only three trains every 25 minutes on the Yellow Line.

"Due to the low frequency, we hadn't expected such high ridership. After the initial rush, we had expected it to drop down to around half, at 30,000. But commuters seem unfazed by the low frequency. This just goes to show that consumer behaviour can't always be predicted," said the senior official.

Namma Metro's Yellow Line between RV Road and Bommasandra was launched for public service on August 10. DH FILE PHOTO

The ridership is clearly high on weekdays. The evening rush, usually 20% more than the number of commuters during the morning peak hours, is backing the steady rise in ridership.

"The line is mainly being used by working professionals travelling to Electronics City, Bommasandra and all the places in between. While in the mornings, they might opt for cabs, we're seeing that towards the evening, people are preferring the metro," he added.

The ridership is expected to increase with the addition of the fourth train on the Yellow Line in the next two to three weeks, shared another senior BMRCL official.

Vehicular traffic comes down

After the inauguration of the Yellow Line, traffic along the route has dramatically reduced, commuters told *DH*. An IT professional who travels from Bommasandra to MG Road noticed a 30-minute decrease in travel time.

"Earlier, it would take me at least an hour and 45 minutes to get to work. But since the inauguration of Yellow Line, traffic on the stretch has gotten much better, and it has been taking me only an hour and 10 minutes to get to work," he said.

He added that the reduced travel time has got him picking driving over the metro more often, despite the latter being about Rs 300 to Rs 400 cheaper.

Zahra F, a resident of Electronics City, also noticed similar traffic patterns.

"The traffic congestion at the Silk Board junction and Electronics City has come down much, especially in the evening" she said. Auto drivers in and around the locality said that their ride requests too have shifted.

"Now, we mostly only get ride requests for localities that are not connected to the Yellow Line. The IT professionals who would book a ride for a drop back home at the end of the day, have now started taking the Metro," said Vinayaka Kumar, an auto driver from Banashankari.

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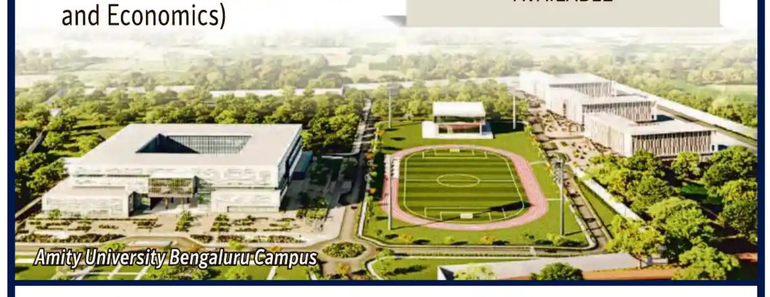
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Locals oppose KIOCL's decision to hand over Kudremukh township to forest dept

VIJAYAKUMAR S K
CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to operationalise the lease agreement for the Devadari iron ore mine in Sandur taluk of Ballari district, the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) has decided to hand over 282 acres of land, including its Kudremukh township in Chikkamagaluru district, to the forest department.

Mining operations began in Kudremukh in 1977, and a township was built there for employees. Over 6,000 employees and their families once lived there. The township had houses, government school, Kendriya Vidyalaya, a hospital, playground, market, cinema hall, sports stadium and clubhouse.

The Supreme Court ordered suspension of mining in 2005 and it officially stopped in 2006. Following this, employees were relocated. The township still has houses, offices and schools. Some buildings are being used by the forest department, and the hospital and school continue to serve local people.

Now, as KIOCL seeks to operationalise the forest lease for Devadari mine in Sandur, the department has decided not to transfer forest land there until the recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), related to forest destruction during mining in Kudremukh, are implemented. The KIOCL has initiated steps to hand over the township land to forest department.

KALKULI VITTAL HEGDE
Activist

"The decision of KIOCL is a betrayal of the people living around Kudremukh.

"Kudremukh still has a government school, small marketplace and agriculture activities. If this land is completely handed over, locals will face difficulties. Residents of Nellibeedu, Jamble, Singsar and Biligallu around Kudremukh will be deprived of facilities. People who supported the company for 30 years should not be pushed to hardships," locals said.

"Kudremukh had what was considered the first planned township in Asia. But the government failed to utilise the facilities. Now, bowing to pressure from the department, the firm is preparing to hand over land," they said.

"When the company's operations in Kudremukh were halted, infrastructure here should have been put to use to benefit locals. Land acquired from farmers for mining should be returned to them. It should also be given to daily wagers who toiled there. The company itself should take responsibility for maintaining Lakhya dam," said activist Kalkuli Vittal Hegde.

A view of Kudremukh township. The KIOCL has decided to hand over 282 acres of land, including the township, to operationalise Devadari mining lease agreement. DH PHOTO

Parcels to US from GPO in Bengaluru see over 50% fall

Students, working professionals there feel the pinch

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The effects of the 50% tariff slapped on India by the US are being felt at Bengaluru's General Post Office (GPO), Cubbon Park. The number of articles booked for shipping to the US at the post office has nose-dived: from 57 parcels in July to 27 in the first 24 days of August, a more than 50% fall.

According to GPO officials, the fall is primarily due to the sharp rise in shipment costs due to tariff increase.

While packages under $800 were earlier allowed into US duty free, now any shipment above $100 draws stiff duties.

The August numbers are lesser than the 32 booked in June, when articles sent to the US usually dips due to summer break when students return home. The fall is sharper than what the numbers suggest as students returning for their fall semesters should have seen the numbers spike, post office staffers told *DH*.

India has suspended all postal services to US owing to the new duty regime. This means families will have to spend extra to ship parcels or stop sending them completely.

A majority of parcels sent to US from Bengaluru are by family members or friends of students or working professionals living there.

Geeta, mother of a student at Arizona State University, used to send to her daughter monthly packages of spices, blends and pickles.

"My packages, depending on the weight, would cost around Rs 5,000, which was economical," she told *DH*. In contrast, the same package sizes sent through private postal services were almost double the price, ranging from Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000, she added.

Officials at the Chief Post Master General Office told *DH* that they were yet to hear any grievances from customers.

However, Delilah, a premed student at University in Oregan, told *DH* that her family used to send her a couple of packages every month from Bengaluru and the shipments would consist of food, medicines and necessities that she found expensive in US.

"Now I doubt they'll be able to send me stuff that often anymore" she said.

According to the notice by the Postal Department the indefinite suspension of most postal services to the United States started third week of August, where new customs duties on international shipments were introduced. The department also added that all the booking and transmission of all categories of mail items destined for the United States—except documents/letters and gift items up to USD 100 would be suspended.

Anitha, mother of a dental professional working in Boston, tried to mail her son a couple documents that he required but was told that the services were suspended at the local post office, on Tuesday.

Another family received their rejected parcel on Thursday, because it contained food items and did not qualify as gift items. A well placed source at the Bengaluru GPO confirmed that the postal department was closely monitoring the situation and was trying its hardest to restore services at the earliest.

Heavy rain forecast for coastal districts, north Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a heavy rainfall across parts of the state in next two to three days, with the intensity expected to reduce after three days. An 'orange alert' has been issued for coastal districts.

According to the IMD, a 'yellow alert' has been issued for the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada for Monday, with the possibility of heavy rainfall. The intensity is expected to increase on Tuesday and Wednesday, for which an 'orange alert' has been announced for all three districts.

On Thursday, the alert will be downgraded to 'yellow alert' as the rainfall is likely to subside.

A 'yellow alert' has also been issued for several districts in North Interior Karnataka, including Haveri, Dharwad, Gadag, Koppal, Raichur, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Yadgir, Kalaburagi, and Bidar for Monday. These areas are likely to experience moderate rainfall accompanied by winds gusting up to 40 to 50 kmph. South Interior Karnataka is expected to receive moderate rainfall.

Fishermen warned

The IMD has issued a warning to fishermen, advising them not to venture into the sea until September 5, as wind speeds could reach between 40 to 60 kmph along the coast. For Bengaluru, the weather is expected to remain cloudy for the next week, with a possibility of light drizzle. Wind speeds are likely to be between 30 to 40 kmph. While no heavy rainfall is expected for the city, residents have been advised to be cautious during the rainy spells.

Govt sanctions 16 IAS, 2 IPS officers for Greater Bengaluru Authority

BENGALURU, DHNS

As the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will cease to exist on Tuesday, the state government has sanctioned a total of 16 IAS officers, two IPS officers, and 19 KAS officers for the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the five newly carved municipal corporations.

The government is likely to make the appointments in a day or two.

Of the 16 IAS officers, five posts have been created within the GBA. These include the Chief Commissioner and four Special Commissioners — one in charge of administration, revenue and IT; another focusing on health and education; a third handling elections, disaster management, public relations and coordination; and the fourth overseeing finance.

An IAS officer of secretary rank will serve as the commissioner of each of the five corporations.

They will be assisted by an Additional Commissioner (Development), a junior-rank IAS officer.

Two IPS officers will be posted in the GBA as the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) and Superintendent of Police (SP) of the Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF). They will be supported by a Deputy SP, a KSPS-rank officer.

Of the 19 KAS officers, two will be posted in the GBA to manage administration, elections, and IT.

The remaining officers will be deployed in the corporations to oversee revenue collection, serving as Additional Commissioners and Zonal Joint Commissioners.

B'luru court gets hoax bomb threat

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Court of Small Causes in Bengaluru recently received a bomb threat via email, which the police later confirmed was a hoax.

The incident, reported on August 22, surfaced on Sunday.

The FIR states that between 2.30 pm and 2.35 pm, the court's official ID received an email from rajagiri_marudhayan@outlook.com. It claimed that two RDX and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) would be placed inside the premises. The police conducted a thorough search and declared the threat a hoax.

The Central Cybercrime Police registered an FIR on August 23 under sections 351(4) (criminal intimidation) and 353(1)(b) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and Section 66C (punishment for identity theft) of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

Gurdwara incident

On August 24, a gurdwara in East Bengaluru received a similar threat from the same email ID. The police later declared this, too, a hoax. "De-Brahminize Dravidistan: 4 RDX IED Blasts in Your Gurudwara Langar/Washrooms Soon! Evacuate All Within 8 Hrs," the email read, as per the FIR filed by the Halasuru Gate police.

Revised Bedti-Varada project will destroy 1k acre forest: Activists

BENGALURU, DHNS: Activists from Uttara Kannada district have opposed the recent attempts to revive the old proposal to join Bedti and Varada rivers, noting that over 1,000 acre of pristine forests will be destroyed in an effort to divert a stressed river.

K Venkatesh, Genapati K and Anant Hegde Ashisar of the Vruksha Laksha Andolana Karnataka said the plan to divert water from Yellapur and Sirsi through canals to provide water to the Haveri farmers was misplaced.

"Over the last 25 years, the project has been opposed by the public three times and subsequently shelved. Now, the National Watershed Development Agency is about to start working on a new detailed project report," a statement said.

The Andolana said about 1.5 lakh farmers in Sirsi, Yellapur and Ankola taluks were dependent on the Bedti river. Besides being lifeline of fishermen, the river is the source of drinking water for 190 villages and also being tapped to provide water to the naval base in Karwar.

"Building the infrastructure for the Bedti-Varada project, including canals, road and electricity, will end up destroying 1,000 acres of pristine forests and leave a negative impact on the ecosystem," the Andolana said, urging the government to drop the project.

D'sthala smear campaign: JD(S) alleges foreign-funded plot

MANGALURU, DHNS: JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy has alleged foreign-funded conspiracy in the smear campaign against Dharmasthala.

Addressing party workers from across the state participating in "Dharmasthala Satya Yatre" in the temple town on Sunday, Nikhil said that the complainant-witness should have been interrogated when he came up with a skull.

"However, the state government failed to do so. The conspiracy was not hatched by one or two individuals. But a few who received funds from abroad," he said.

He demanded that the matter be investigated by central agency.

BJP rally today

The state BJP will hold "Dharmasthala Chalo" rally to express our solidarity with the Dharmasthala Kshetra on Monday.

Dakshina Kannada MP Capt Brijesh Chowta told reporters on Sunday that through the rally party would send a strong message against any attempt to tarnish the image of the Hindu places of worship.

He said that the SIT should also investigate into the funding of campaign against Dharmasthala.

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पत्रांक- 1635, दिनांक- 30.08.2025

विज्ञप्ति

झारखण्ड उत्पाद (मदिरा की बिक्री हेतु खुदरा उत्पाद दुकानों का संचालन) नियमावली 2025 के प्रावधानों के अन्तर्गत विभागीय अधिसूचना संख्या-1187, दिनांक-11.07.2025 द्वारा उक्त नियमावली का दिनांक - 01.09.2025 से प्रवृत्त होना अधिसूचित है। इसके आलोक में विभिन्न प्रकार की मदिरा यथा भारत निर्मित विदेशी शराब / बीयर/ देशी मदिरा/ भारत में आयातित विदेशी मदिरा (मूल में बोतलबंद) की कर संरचना में परिवर्तन के फलस्वरूप विभिन्न आपूर्तिकर्त्ताओं के ब्राण्डों के खुदरा बिक्री मूल्य (Retail Sale Price) में दिनांक - 01.09.2025 के प्रभाव से परिवर्तन हो रहा है।

राज्य के अनुमत आपूर्तिकर्त्ताओं के विभिन्न प्रकार के ब्राण्डों के खुदरा बिक्री मूल्य (Retail Sale Price) के परिवर्तित मूल्य (दिनांक - 01.09.2025 से प्रभावी) की विवरणी विभागीय वेबसाईट https://excise.jharkhand.gov.in/Excise, https://excise.jharkhand.gov.in/jsbcl एवं सभी खुदरा उत्पाद दुकानों के परिसर में भी सर्वसाधारण की सूचना हेतु उपलब्ध है।

ह./-
आयुक्त उत्पाद, झारखंड, राँची

PR 360867 (Excise) (25-26):D

ಅಖಿಲ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊರಮರ ಸಂಘ (ರಿ)
ನಂ.19, ಜರ್ನಲಿಸ್ಟ್ ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಮಾವಳ್ಳಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಬಂಡ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 002.

ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಸಂಘದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ನಡೆಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಮತದಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ತಯಾರಿಕೆ ಕುರಿತು.

ಸಂಘಗಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ವಲಯ-2, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 5239 ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಕ್ರಮಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಕಾರಣ ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾನೂನು ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ನಡೆಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26/02/2024 ರಂದು ನಾನು ವಡೆದ ಪ್ರಭಾರದಂತೆ ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಾ ಸಂಘದ ನಿಯಮ, ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 1ರ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 3ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವ ಪಡೆದಿರುವವರು ಸ್ವಯಂ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿದ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಘಕ್ಕೆ ಖಿದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವವನ್ನು ಖಾತರಿ ಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

1) ಸಂಘದ ನಿಯಮ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆ 1ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಜನಾಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಜಾತಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ. 2) ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವ ಸರ್ಟಿಫಿಕೇಟ್. 3) ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ ರಸೀತಿ. 4) ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ. 5) ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್. 6) ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂಬರ್. 7) ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ (ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ)

ಮೇಲಿನ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03/09/2025 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04/10/2025ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ದಿನ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಘದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಿದ್ದಾಗಿ ಯಾಗಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. (ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ನಿಗದಿತ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೇ ಇರುವವರ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಮತದಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ ನೀಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಆದರೆ ಈ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆಯು ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವ ತೆಗೆದುಹಾಕುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- **ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ**
ಅಖಿಲ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊರಮರ ಸಂಘ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

15-yr-old delivers baby; parents allege rape by her brother

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: A 15-year-old girl studying Class 9 gave birth to a male child in her house in Shivamogga recently. The parents of the girl had lodged a complaint alleging rape by her minor elder brother. The Vinoba Nagar police have registered a case under the Pocso Act.

Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has also registered a suo motu complaint, said Commission member Shashidhar Kosambe. The girl, in her statement, alleged that her elder brother raped her when her parents had been to work and had asked her not to reveal it to parents.

In another incident reported from Ilkal in Bagalkot district, a Class 7 student at a residential school was found to be two-month pregnant. A complaint has been lodged against a boy who studied Class 8 in the residential school last year accusing him of having physical relationship with the girl.

'DKS was keen to form govt with BJP'

KALABURAGI, DHNS: In a startling revelation, Bijapur City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has said that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's one leg is outside the Congress and that the he had entered into a secret deal with BJP state president B Y Vijayendra to form the government.

"Shivakumar and Vijayendra had met in Delhi and entered into a secret agreement. Accordingly, Shivakumar was to be made chief minister if he managed to get support of 60 to 70 Congress MLAs, and Vijayendra was to be made deputy CM. The plan came a cropper as not many Congress MLAs were with Shivakumar," Yatnal told reporters here.

"During the meeting in Delhi, Shivakumar is said to have claimed that he has the backing of 60 to 70 Congress MLAs. The BJP leadership learnt through an internal report that there were not even 13 MLAs behind him (DKS)," Yatnal added.

Govt nixes objections, seeks relook into mining project

Plan tweaked to reduce forest requirement from 400 to 250 acres

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Five years after the forest department said 'no' to a proposal to take up mining in nearly 400 acres of pristine virgin forests near a historic temple in Ballari's Sandur, the government has overruled the same to kick-start a fresh round of procedure for forest clearance.

The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) had sought 392.92 acres of forest in Swamimalai forests of Sandur.

At that time, the forest land had about 26,000 trees of various species and was home to leopard, sloth bear, four-horned antelope, jackal, Indian wolf, fox, wild boar and other animals.

The forest was also within 1 km radius of the ancient Kumaraswamy-Parvati temple complex.

Based on field reports of the deputy conservator of forests and chief conservator of forests, the then principal chief conservator of forests (head of forest force) Punati Sridhar had raised a red flag.

"It is requested not to consider the proposal for moving to the government of India seeking 'in-principle' (stage-1) approval," Sridhar's letter dated November 26, 2019 stated.

Documents reviewed by *DH* show that NMDC tweaked the proposal last year, with the state government stepping up efforts to clear the path for diversion of forest.

A signboard placed by the forest department says that forest wealth is nation's wealth and that is everyone's responsibility to protect it. The board is en route to the mining areas in Swamimalai forest division in Sandur taluk of Ballari district.

The company has reduced forest land requirement to 250.86 acres, while reserving its rights on the rest of the forest.

"Tree felling in the area will be carried out in a phased manner after obtaining permission and as per future mining requirements," the company has said.

Following a direction from the government, the deputy conservator of forests, Ballari, has now directed the company to make necessary changes in the proposal to process it further.

The company has been told to provide details of land for compensatory afforestation.

The government has, in a similar case, overruled forest departments objections for diversion of 992 acres of forest for another mining proposal by Kudremukh Iron Ore Mining Company Limited. The National Green Tribunal has registered a suo motu case on this.

Sandur-based activist Sreeshaila Aladahalli described the government's action in the NMDC case was yet another betrayal. "World over, resource consumption is being seen from the lens of intergenerational justice. In Karnataka, KMERC oversight authority has recommended reduction of annual mineral production from 50 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes. But the government is busy finding new ways to open old files put aside due to potential ecological disaster," he said.

KMERC is the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation.

Ballari DCF Basavaraj K N told *DH* that no decision had been taken on the matter.

"We are following government's instructions to look into the proposal. No decision has been taken yet," he said.

Seers meet, demand Cabinet berth for Rajanna

TUMAKURU, DHNS: Over 15 seers from the backward and Dalit communities met former co-operation minister K N Rajanna at his residence in Kyatsandra of Tumakuru on Sunday.

The closed-door meeting lasted nearly two hours and focused on pressing for Rajanna's inclusion in the state Cabinet.

Speaking to the media persons after the meeting, the seers said, they plan to visit New Delhi soon to meet senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and CM Siddaramaiah, urging them to reconsider Rajanna's exclusion from the Cabinet.

"Rajanna deserved a place in the Cabinet. Dropping him abruptly has hurt the community's sentiments. This needs to be corrected," said Eshwaranandapuri Swami of the Kanaka Gurupeetha in Hosadurga.

Backing the demand, Valmiki Prasannananda Puri Swami of Rajanahalli Peetha said, "Rajanna is a strong voice for oppressed communities and has built a secular leadership identity. His exclusion is based on a misunderstanding and is condemnable."

Congress leader K N Rajanna said, "The seers have empowered me with greater strength to stand for the truth. I have discussed the ups and downs of politics and the recent developments with them."

'Room to Read' an example of Cong's vote bank politics: Chalavadi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Council Chalavadi T Narayanaswamy on Sunday accused the Congress party of indulging in appeasement politics under the garb of 'reforming' education.

Chalavadi specifically took issue with the 'Room to Read' initiative that the government has rolled out to instil the habit of reading among children from classes one to seven. "Under the garb of promoting reading, the government is pushing a hidden agenda," Chalavadi wrote on 'X'.

The circular that was sent to schools contained a QR code that directs students to books that provide information on the Muslim festival Eid Milad, alleged Chalavadi.

"The government, which is entrusted with the responsibility of imparting education that has no ideological slant is trying to push propaganda about one religion," Chalavadi added.

The LoP appealed to the CM to allow schools to remain 'temples of knowledge' and warned him not to turn them into 'laboratories of vote bank politics'.

CM justifies Banu's selection for Dasara inauguration

MYSURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday justified the selection of International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq for Dasara inauguration..

"Dasara is a cultural fest. It is beyond all religious faiths and castes. It is the fest for people of all religious faiths, including Hindus, Muslims Christians, Buddhists and Jains. There is no such thing that a person from a particular religion or community should inaugurate it. The high power committee had vested the responsibility with me to select the inaugurator of Dasara. Only very few people have won the Booker Prize. Hence I have selected her and it is correct," the chief minister added.

He was speaking to media persons at Mysuru Airport.

Siddaramaiah said, that BJP leaders were opposing Banu Mushtaq only for political reasons.

He added, "Those who comment about her should know the history. Earlier, K S Nisar Ahmed has inaugurated Dasara. Tipu Sultan and Hyder Ali have celebrated Dasara. Diwan Mirza Ismail has celebrated it grandly."

GBA, new corporations to need more...

GBA, from Page 1

The increase in workforce is attributed to multiple factors. For instance, the GBA alone is estimated to have 314 employees, while the newly formed Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) — tasked with implementing big-ticket projects — will have 107 employees.

Each of the five corporations will employ between 2,163 and 4,315 personnel, including both technical and non-technical staff.

Sanitation workers — responsible for maintaining ward roads — will form the largest group, comprising 16,807 employees, nearly the same as at present.

New recruitment is expected in areas such as finance and accounts, town planning, information technology, legal affairs, public health, survey and revenue.

The figures are likely to vary after the government finalises the number of wards. Based on population projections, it's learnt that Bengaluru West corporation may have the highest number of wards, while Bengaluru East may have the lowest.

What can be noted is that the East corporation is expected to generate more revenue than the West. For now, the government is learnt to have decided to create a total of 50 divisions and 150 sub-divisions for the five corporations.

Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, Tushar Girinath, told *DH* the final number of wards will be determined by a delimitation commission, which is yet to be formed.

"The government will provide certain guidelines based on which the number of wards will be decided by the commission along with ward boundaries. We are currently working on the organisational structure, but reports claiming there will be 450 wards are incorrect," he clarified.

R Rajagopalan, convener of the Bengaluru Coalition, a collective of citizens, said the fundamental issues that made the BBMP dysfunctional will persist if practices such as "cash for posting" continue.

"At the heart of any institution is its people, and a lack of qualified administrators and skilled engineers can remain the root cause of the problem. Moreover, there must be focus on systems, processes and talent and skill development to ensure good governance. The GBA is top-heavy and only notionally decentralised," he remarked.

Sept to see above-normal...

IMD, from Page 1

"Many rivers originate in Uttarakhand. So, heavy rainfall means many rivers will be flooded and it will impact cities and towns downstream. So, we should keep this in mind," he said. He added that heavy rainfall is also expected in the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi river in Chhattisgarh.

Mohapatra said there is a slight increasing trend in September rainfall since 1980, barring less rainfall in the month in 1986, 1991, 2001, 2004, 2010, 2015 and 2019.

He said the normal date for the start of monsoon withdrawal from Rajasthan has shifted from September 1 to September 17, which itself indicates that rainfall activity in September has increased.

"September is a transitional month when the season moves towards the post-monsoon phase. With the withdrawal delayed, the chances of interaction between the monsoon and western disturbances rise. The frequency of these disturbances also increases as winter approaches. As a result of these encounters, September rainfall is showing an increasing trend," the IMD chief said.

India received 743.1 mm of rainfall between June 1 and August 31, about 6 per cent above the long-period average of 700.7 mm, IMD data show. June rainfall was 180 mm, around 9 per cent above normal, with large surpluses in northwest and central India. July brought 294.1 mm, around 5 per cent above normal, led by a 22% surplus in central India. August added 268.1 mm, 5.2% above normal.

Mohapatra said unusually high rainfall in northwest India was triggered by strong interactions between western disturbances and monsoonal low-pressure systems.

He said that low-pressure systems from the Bay of Bengal, instead of following their usual path through Odisha, moved across Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh or via north Andhra Pradesh, south Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

"Northwest India saw three such active interactions in August, which led to incidents in Dharali (Uttarakhand), Kishtwar (Jammu and Kashmir), Jammu and Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)," he said.

India-China partners...

Modi, from Page 1

India and China both pursue strategic autonomy, and their relations should not be seen through a third country lens, Modi told Xi.

"We must jointly demonstrate historical responsibility, uphold multilateralism, strengthen communication and cooperation on major international and regional issues, defend international fairness and justice, work together to promote a multipolar world and the democratisation of international relations, and make due contributions to maintaining peace and prosperity in the world, including in Asia," said the Chinese President.

Modi responded positively to the suggestions from Xi, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri later told journalists in Tianjin. Though the stand-off ended in October 2024, the two sides have not yet discussed restarting patrolling in the buffer zones.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction the successful disengagement last year and the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the border areas. They expressed commitment to a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question proceeding from the political perspective of their overall bilateral relations and the long-term interests of the two peoples, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

"As long as they remain committed to the overarching principle of being partners, not rivals, and providing development opportunities, not threats, for each other, China-India relations will flourish and move forward steadily," Xi told Modi.

High on confidence, Oppn to conclude...

Bihar yatra, from Page 1

The assessment in the I.N.D.I.A bloc is that the campaign depicting the SIR as a vehicle for "vote theft" by the BJP has hit a chord with the people and they could weave around other "people's issues" around it.

"For a state that has seen historic deprivation and hardships, the threat of one true power — the right to vote — being stolen was unimaginable. The fear they had in their hearts needed comforting, and the yatra came in as a ray of hope against the blatant destruction of democracy being orchestrated in the name of SIR," Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said.

For the 'Mahagathbandhan', as the I.N.D.I.A bloc is known in Bihar, the yatra has not only been a platform for connecting with the voters but cementing the relationship between cadres of various constituents, and erasing mistrust and one-upmanship in their areas of influence.

While Rahul remains the mascot of the campaign that started on August 17, top I.N.D.I.A leaders travelling together for almost two weeks have helped in better coordination and controlling the narrative.

Alliance managers are happy that the chemistry between the leaders, which is not limited to Rahul and Tejashwi, will be useful in the coming days when the parties sit together to finalise the tricky issue of seat sharing.

Sources said special care was taken to ensure that all partners are given adequate space.

What the yatra did to the bloc, as a senior leader put it, is that cadres have started cooperating and acting in coordination on the ground. The campaign also brought the JD(U)-BJP combine on the line of fire.

While senior Opposition leaders like MK Stalin and Akhilesh Yadav as well as Congress Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah and A Revanth Reddy have already joined the yatra, other leaders like MA Baby (CPM), D Raja (CPI) and Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena-UBT) among others will join the Patna leg of the campaign.

Once the yatra concludes, party managers will be back to designing the next phase of campaign that will extend till the announcement of the poll schedule.

For the Congress, the Bihar yatra has helped it in the national projection of its 'vote theft' campaign. The BJP has now tasked its leaders with countering the campaign.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at most places over Coastal , at many places over South Interior and at a few places over North Interior Karnataka.
Forecast Sep 01: Generally cloudy sky. Light rain likely.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	26.4	20.4	1.7
Bidar	28.5	21.5	0.0
Vijayapura	29.0	21.5	0.6
Dharwad	27.4	20.0	0.2
Haveri	27.0	21.2	2.6
Kalaburagi	32.6	22.6	0.0
Raichur	32.0	22.2	1.8
COASTAL			
Honnavar	29.1	24.3	4.1
Karwar	30.2	25.0	20.6
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	28.2	23.5	12.3

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	61.5
Bengaluru	29.1	20.8	0.6
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	30.7	21.0	0.0
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	28.5	21.0	0.2
Davangere	26.0	19.5	2.2
Hassan	26.4	19.9	1.0
Mysuru	29.0	20.0	8.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	29.6	21.3	4.2
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	27.0	25.0	NIL
Kolkata	33.0	27.0	NIL
Mumbai	28.0	27.0	NA
Chennai	34.0	28.0	NA
Pune	27.0	22.0	NA
Hyderabad	27.0	23.0	NA
Th'puram	31.0	25.0	NIL

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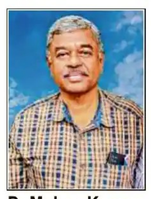
Dr.Mohan Kumar Mahadevaiah, Hon.Secretary

Dr.Vishwanath Krishnamurthy, Hon.Treasurer

Chairman Elect - Dr.B.Ramesh, Chamarajanagara
Vice Chairman
Dr.K.C.Shashidhara, Mysuru, Dr.K.M.Srinath, Mysuru
Dr.K.G.Suresh, Bengaluru

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2. Dr.K.S.Satish Ramana, Bengaluru
3. Dr.Siddalinga Reddy, Raichur
4. Dr.Anand P Ambali, Vijayapura
5. Dr.Sahadev H K, Chikamagalur
6. Dr.Darshana.R, Bengaluru
7. Dr.B.C.Prakash, Bengaluru
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TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(OP)/ Circle South/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, **Call-10,** Dated: 01.10.2024 for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV ITI-Hebbala-1 & 2 (Hebbala - L.R. Bande & Hebbala - Banaswadi tapped to Pottery Road) double circuit line between tower No.06 & 07 in HMT Layout, R.T Nagar by providing 02 No's of 66kV DC plus 6 NBT KPTCL design towers in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr(Op), South Circle, Bengaluru.

The bids will be received through KPP portal mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 01.09.2025.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Tr (Operation) Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

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(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ)
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Ref.No:BGKUJ/RO/2025-26/665 Date: 30.08.2025

PRESS NOTE
Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement)

Registrar, Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi invites Tender through e-procurement for Supply of 36 pages Main Answer Booklet & 4 pages Practical Answer Booklet to Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi from 01.09.2025 Desired eligible suppliers / Agency may apply before 20.09.2025 by 4.00 PM through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further information kindly visit University website https://bgku.karnataka.gov.in or the Registrar (Evaluation)office at University.

Sd/-
Registrar
Bagalkot, University, Jamkhandi

PM flags cross-border terror in talks with Xi

Says both India and China are victims of terrorism, calls for mutual cooperation

TIANJIN (CHINA), PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday flagged concerns over cross-border terrorism in his talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and pitched for cooperation between India and China to combat the menace, as both countries are its victims.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, at a media briefing, said the issue of cross-border terrorism was mentioned by PM Modi as a "priority".

Modi and Xi held wide-ranging talks with a focus on rebuilding the bilateral relations that came under severe strain following the over four-year border standoff in eastern Ladakh that ended in October last year.

"Cross-border terrorism was mentioned by the prime minister as a priority. And, I would add that he did underline the fact that this is something that impacts both India and China."

"And, that it's important therefore that we extend understanding and extend support to each other as both of us combat cross-border terrorism," he said.

"I would in fact like to say that we have received the understanding and cooperation of China as we have dealt with the issue of cross-border terrorism in the context of the ongoing SCO summit," he added.

The foreign secretary's remarks are seen to be an indication that the SCO declaration to be unveiled on Monday may comprise some criticism or condemnation of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Pakistan has been an all-weather ally of China, and Beijing in the past had blocked New Delhi's efforts to designate several Pakistan-based terrorists by the UN Security Council.

Misri said the two leaders exchanged views on jointly fighting terrorism.

To a question on whether PM Modi raised the Pahalgam terror attack and use of Chinese equipment by the Pakistan army during the India-Pakistan military conflict in May, Misri did not give a direct reply.

"All I'll say is that, without going into the specifics, the issue was discussed. It was raised by the prime minister, and he outlined his understanding very, very crisply and very specifically on this issue," he said.

"He outlined the fact that this is a scourge that both China and India have been victims of, and India is still combating this menace. And he asked for China's support on this particular issue. And, as I said, the Chinese have extended their support in various ways on addressing this issue," he noted.

Modi landed in China on Saturday on a two-day visit that came after a gap of seven years. He is in China to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Jaishankar skips Tianjin meet, cites health issues

NEW DELHI, DHNS: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was conspicuous by his absence during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Tianjin on Sunday.

Sources said Jaishankar had not joined Modi's entourage to Japan and China, citing health issues.

S Jaishankar

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who is also India's Special Representative for boundary negotiations with China, and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, as well as other officials, accompanied the prime minister in the meeting with the Chinese president.

Earlier meetings

Jaishankar met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi on August 18.

He stressed that the de-escalation process — withdrawal of additional troops deployed by both sides in the rear areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh – should move forward.

Doval met his counterpart Wang, China's Special Representative for boundary negotiations with India, in New Delhi a day later and told him that the India-China border areas had been quiet in the past nine months.

Fadnavis govt in quota quandary as Jarange-Patil hardens stand

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Maratha reservation campaigner Manoj Jarange-Patil hardened his stance on Sunday by announcing that he would stop drinking water from Monday and demanded that the Wankhede Stadium be opened for protestors, even as the BJP-led Maha Yuti dispensation grappled with the chaos in Mumbai with no immediate solution in sight.

Sunday marked the fifth of the 11-day Ganeshotsav, when a large number of idols of Lord Ganesh were immersed. People are now slated to return to work, and those who had gone to their native places will start returning this week.

"I am telling you that from tomorrow I will stop drinking water... Don't worry. Nothing will happen. We will get our reservation. Only then will I leave Mumbai," Jarange-Patil told reporters at the Azad Maidan, where he is on a sit-in protest.

Meanwhile, Maratha-quota agitators gheraoed Baramati MP Supriya Sule and allegedly pelted her car with empty bottles as she came out of Azad Maidan. They also raised slogans against her father, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar.

In a related development, Water Resources Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, who heads the 12-member Cabinet subcommittee on issues involving the Maratha community, held a series of meetings and a briefing session with Advocate-General Birendra Saraf and Justice Sandeep Shinde (Retd), who heads the committee mandated with issuing caste and caste-validity certificates for the Kunbi, Maratha-Kunbi, and Kunbi-Maratha castes to eligible members of the Maratha community.

He later said that the government was making all efforts to resolve the issue. He accused the Opposition of trying to derive political mileage out of the protests.

Meanwhile, police have extended the permission to protest at Azad Maidan by a day.

No tax if vehicle not used in public place, rules Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, PTI: Motor vehicle tax is compensatory in nature, and if a vehicle is not used or not kept for use in a 'public place', then its owner should not be burdened with motor vehicle tax for such period, the Supreme Court has said.

The court delivered verdict on an appeal challenging a December 2024 judgment of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

"Motor vehicle tax is compensatory in nature. It has a direct nexus with the end use. The rationale for the levy of motor vehicle tax is that a person who is using public infrastructure, such as roads, highways, etc., has to pay for such usage," the apex court said.

Referring to section 3 of the Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1963, the court said the legislature has consciously used the expression 'public place' in this provision.

"If a motor vehicle is not used in a 'public place' or not kept for use in a 'public place' then the person concerned is not deriving benefit from the public infrastructure; therefore, he should not be burdened with the motor vehicle tax for such period," the top court said in its judgment delivered on August 29.

The court said the taxable event under section 3 is when a vehicle is used or kept for use in a 'public place' in the state.

"Therefore, the tax is on the user or intendment for the use of a motor vehicle in a 'public place'. Thus, if a vehicle is actually used in a 'public place' or kept in such a way that it is intended to be used in a 'public place', then the tax liability accrues," it said.

It said when admittedly the motor vehicles of the appellant firm in this case were confined for use within the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited premises which is a closed area, then question of the vehicles being used or kept for being used in a 'public place' does not arise.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WHAT'S DAGWOOD SO FOCUSED ON AT THE COMPUTER?
BILLS! HE'S BEEN AT IT FOR A LONG TIME... HE MUST BE ON FIRE!
ANOTHER WIN! MY ONLINE POKER GAME IS ON FIRE TODAY!!!

Hagar The Horrible

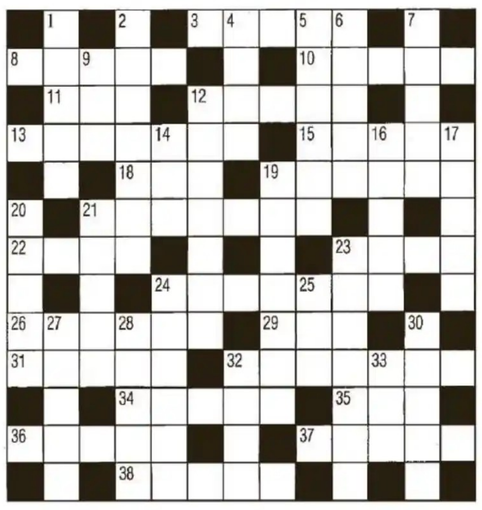
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

YOU HAVE A LOT OF RELATIVES, DON'T YOU?
I GUESS I DO... I HAD ANOTHER UNCLE WHO WAS A BUS DEPOT IN CLARKSVILLE
HIS BENCHES FINALLY WORE OUT AND ALL HIS COIN LOCKERS FELL APART
HE SAID THE WORST PART WAS JUST WAITING AROUND TO BE CONDEMNED

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12236



ACROSS
3 Round brimless cap (5)
8 Kingdom (5)
10 Raises (5)
11 Cease living (3)
12 Boy's name (5)
13 Allegorical tale (7)
15 Planet (5)
18 By way of (3)
19 Demure (6)
21 Stress (7)
22 Jetty (4)
23 Muck (4)
24 Tutor (7)
26 Intelligent (6)
29 Consume food (3)
31 Old Nick (5)
32 Arms depot (7)
34 Glazing paste (5)
35 Suite (3)
36 Church singers (5)
37 Sharply inclined (5)
38 Considers (5)

DOWN
1 Of the foot (5)
2 Meat-axe (7)
4 Fencing sword (4)
5 Number (6)
6 Weary (5)
7 Portly (5)
9 Ventilate (3)
12 Coating for walls (7)
14 Rubbish holder (3)
16 Lowest or deepest point (5)
17 Chairs (5)
19 Magic (7)
20 Glasses (5)
21 Belief (5)
23 Hates, abhors (7)
24 Term of office (6)
25 Possesses (3)
27 Turning tool (5)
28 Boring or dull (5)
30 Provide food (5)
32 Particle of matter (4)
33 Born as (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Good boy, albeit maybe too fat (5)
8 In the gold standard, it plays a measured part (5)
10 Correspond with a tow headed friend (5)
11 Inclination to be gratuitous? (3)
12 Herb's name for another boy (5)
13 Expected to show pity, perhaps, to Calvin (7)
15 The quality of many a mug (5)
18 Astonishing speed? (3)
19 It's a bit risky for chaps to be paratroopers (6)
21 Did Michael take a day to get a long way? (7)
22 Topographical feature of Caerphilly (4)
23 Being a flier can be fun (4)
24 Event possibly shown live during January? (7)
26 So vets can use them for heating (6)
29 Mark's little girl (3)
31 Teams taken to be in alliance? (5)
32 Where access is gained to the French cakes (7)
34 Skint at Stratford? (5)
35 Free from some harridan (3)
36 Was it wiped clean for further education? (5)
37 The load to leave on a vehicle? (5)
38 Come up as a review of pay (5)

DOWN
1 Being sexy, one imagines, he was apt to stray! (5)
2 Money enough to beat everything, given another pound (7)
4 Authentic way to play Lear (4)
5 The clinging type can be difficult (6)
6 Go out with aunt (5)
7 Not quite up to the mark, many get beaten (5)
9 In haste, let her go! (3)
12 A crazy bunch (7)
14 Indecorous exclamation? (3)
16 Capital, game hearted player? (5)
17 Has a nasty bite but a beautiful skin (5)
19 Made, say, by arrangement within hours (4,3)
20 A game to master? (5)
21 Follower of antediluvian events (5)
23 Alliterative quotation arranged word for word (7)
24 The old fool was simply laughed at (6)
25 A fortune in zlotys (3)
27 She's sick of getting in extremes of tragedy (5)
28 That flaming redhead (5)
30 Remove a young shoot at some stage (5)
32 Animals in the news, we hear (4)
33 Miriam's uppish manner? (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2643

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1 Ordeal, 4 Spectrum, 9 Tawdry, 10 Frenetic, 12 Put on ice, 13 Morose, 15 Shot, 16 Fair enough, 19 Just in case, 20 Odds, 23 Top dog, 25 Scot-free, 27 Ask for it, 28 Calico, 29 Derisive, 30 Reject.

DOWN: 1 Octopus, 2 Down tools, 3 Airing, 5 Pure, 6 Confound, 7 Ratio, 8 Macbeth, 11 Scratch, 14 Trisect, 17 Under fire, 18 Timorous, 19 Jutland, 21 See to it, 22 At ease, 24 Poker, 26 Kiev.

◆SU-DO-KU-6689◆

4	7		5	2				8
2	5		8				9	
		3	6					
		4	9					1
			7		3			
9					6	8		
					5	4		
	6				7		8	3
5				6	8		1	7

hard

SOLUTION TO 6688

3	5	1	9	2	7	6	4	8
4	8	9	1	5	6	3	7	2
2	7	6	4	8	3	5	1	9
7	1	2	5	6	8	4	9	3
5	6	3	2	4	9	1	8	7
9	4	8	3	7	1	2	6	5
6	2	7	8	1	5	9	3	4
1	9	5	7	3	4	8	2	6
8	3	4	6	9	2	7	5	1

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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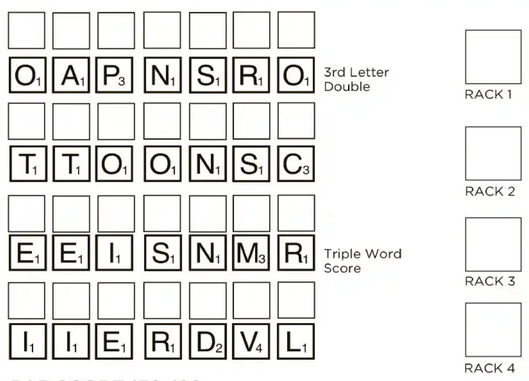

O1 A1 P3 N1 S1 R1 O1
3rd Letter Double
T1 T1 O1 O1 N1 S1 C3
E1 E1 I1 S1 N1 M3 R1
Triple Word Score
I1 I1 E1 R1 D2 V4 L1
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 170-180
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

A1 S1 P3 I1 R1 I1 N1
T1 I1 T1 A1 N1 I1 S1
D2 A1 U1 N1 T1 E1 D2
H4 O1 N1 K5 E1 D2

RACK 1 = 68
RACK 2 = 57
RACK 3 = 77
RACK 4 = 24
JUDD'S TOTAL 226

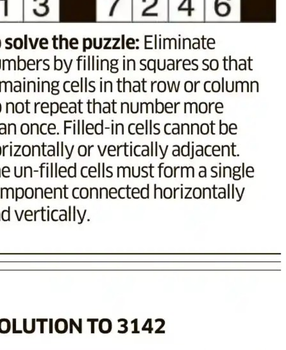
PAR SCORE 145-155

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EECEM
POYUS
GTUHOH
RETIVN


The fleet is returning on board for final instructions on the invasion.
You babies will soon be swimming in Earth's oceans.
2/22
THE ALIENS MATERNITY WARD WAS LOCATED ON THE ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HALVE HARSH SPLICE ENGINE
Answer: The Eiffel Tower was engineered and built by — HIGH ACHIEVERS

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HITORI-3143

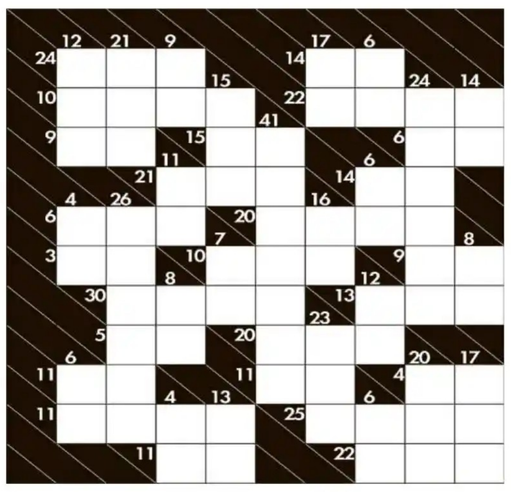
3	3	4	6	7	3	2	5
3	7	5	8	5	5	3	2
6	8	5	3	2	1	7	3
4	5	1	5	3	3	1	7
2	5	2	7	8	6	3	4
3	1	7	4	5	5	8	3
6	4	3	5	1	2	5	8
5	3	2	1	5	8	5	6

SOLUTION TO 3142

■	2	6	■	5	■	1	■
8	4	3	2	7	6	5	1
4	7	■	6	■	8	■	3
■	5	1	■	4	■	7	8
3	1	■	4	6	5	■	7
5	■	7	1	3	■	8	4
7	8	5	■	1	2	■	6
1	3	■	7	2	4	6	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3143



SOLUTION TO 3142

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3663

■	6							■
8	2	9	5	6		4	■	
	4	7				■		
			■		1		5	
5				■		6		8
			6		■		7	
	7	■	1	4	8	■		
9	■	1					■	
■		8		7				■

SOLUTION TO 3662

1	3	8	6	9	4	2	5	7
2	4	6	5	7	3	8	9	1
7	5	9	1	8	2	4	6	3
9	7	1	3	4	5	6	2	8
3	2	4	9	6	8	7	1	5
6	8	5	2	1	7	3	4	9
4	9	3	8	2	1	5	7	6
5	1	2	7	3	6	9	8	4
8	6	7	4	5	9	1	3	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DECCAN HERALD
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Judge's dissent signals need for transparency

Justice B V Nagarathna's reported dissent against the Supreme Court collegium's decision to nominate Patna High Court Chief Justice Vipul Pancholi to the apex court is another reminder of the need for judicial appointments to maintain the highest level of transparency and credibility. The collegium went ahead with its decision in spite of the dissent by Justice Nagarathna, and the government confirmed the recommendation within two days. The collegium has four other members—Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath and J K Maheshwari. Justice Nagarathna noted that Justice Pancholi's appointment would not only be "counter-productive" to the administration of justice but would also affect the credibility of the collegium system. She flagged "serious and grave reasons" for her concern, raising questions about the appointment of Justice Pancholi and the whole system of appointment of judges to the higher judiciary.

Justice Nagarathna's concerns were reportedly about recommending one more judge from the Gujarat High Court, less than three months after the elevation of Justice N V Anjaria, who was also from the Gujarat High Court, to the top court. When Justice Pancholi's candidature was considered in May, two judges in the collegium are believed to have expressed concerns over his lack of seniority. The collegium then recommended Justice Anjaria to the top court, and Justice Pancholi was appointed Chief Justice of the Patna High Court. But when the recommendation re-emerged, Justice Nagarathna reportedly pointed out that it would lead to bypassing the seniority of many senior judges in the High Courts. She is also said to have pointed out that Justice Pancholi's transfer to the Patna High Court in 2023 was not considered routine.

Justice B V Nagarathna has expressed concern over Justice Vipul Pancholi's nomination to the Supreme Court

It is unfortunate that so many questions have been raised about the elevation of a judge to the highest court. They are particularly important because Justice Pancholi is in line to become the Chief Justice of India. The Supreme Court should reflect the country's diversity. There are two judges from the Gujarat High Court in the apex court and Justice Pancholi will be the third. Many of the 25 High Courts in the country have no representation in the Supreme Court. There is only one woman judge. Merit, diversity and representation are the most important factors in the appointment of higher court judges. There are also concerns about appointment of judges' relatives and associates as judges and lack of transparency in the collegium's proceedings. The recommendations of the collegium and the dissenting note should be made public in the interest of transparency. The people have the right to know how the decision was taken. The questions need to be answered and the fears allayed.

Address misgivings over GST changes

The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 promised a unified tax structure but ended up making states dependent on Central transfers. To offset potential revenue losses, the Union government introduced a five-year compensation mechanism, and it ended in June 2022. It is now proposing to rationalise GST slabs, primarily shifting goods into 5% and 18% categories, but concerns are rife among the states over the possibility of significant revenue loss. In Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has demanded a fresh five-year compensation window to safeguard the state's finances. The rationalisation aims to simplify compliance and boost consumption. The fear of the states is not unfounded. For instance, the COVID-19 pandemic had aggravated financial uncertainties, and many states went in for increased borrowing to bridge the shortfall when the Centre delayed transfers.

The opposition in Karnataka, however, insists that the state's fiscal woes are rooted not in GST but in the Congress government's guarantee schemes. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) also pointed to financial stress due to these welfare schemes. The Congress counter is that the distress is a legacy of the previous BJP government, which sanctioned projects worth Rs 2.7 lakh crore without budgetary provisions, and left pending bills of about Rs 35,000 crore. Moreover, the Siddaramaiah government claims that its guarantees have injected purchasing power into households, boosting consumption and consequently GST collections. Karnataka today ranks first in per capita income, a fact that the government attributes partly to its welfare model. Another sore point is the 15th Finance Commission award. The state has calculated a cumulative loss of over Rs 90,000 crore over five years, and is talking about being denied a special grant of Rs 5,495 crore recommended by the commission. This imbalance is particularly glaring for a state that contributes nearly 8.7% to the national GDP.

High-performing states like Karnataka are getting a raw deal

In this context, the Centre must adopt a balanced approach. It cannot afford to punish high-performing states that are significant contributors to the national economy. Social justice is important, and poorer states must be supported. But this should not mean hard-working, performing states are penalised. Non-performing states, too, should be held accountable; they cannot forever lean on crutches provided by other states. Karnataka's MPs, especially from the BJP, must shed their passivity and lobby actively to ensure that the state receives its fair share of funds and that any loss due to the new GST structure is adequately compensated. Protecting fiscal federalism is not just a state demand; it is a Constitutional duty the Centre must fulfil.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN KARNATAKA

SEP must turn access into genuine inclusion

The focus on making quality education affordable is welcome. But this should be accompanied by a transformation in the curriculum

VICTOR LOBO S J AND PAUL NEWMAN

A few days ago, the Karnataka government, keeping its poll promise of implementing the State Education Policy (SEP) as an alternative to the National Education Policy (NEP), came out with a 2,197-page report. The main highlight of this was free education for girl students up to graduation as well as extending reservations to private institutions.

The main aim of the National Education Policy-2020 in the higher education sector is to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio from the present 27% to 50% by 2035. It also aims at cutting down institutions from the present 58,000 to 12,000.

Only 12% of graduates proceed to post-graduate studies, and from there just 1% proceed towards pursuing research. NEP stresses multidisciplinary approach to learning, but at the higher education level, specialisation in a particular subject domain is the need preparing students to pursue research at a later stage.

The NEP welcomes initiatives such as allowing 100 foreign universities to operate from Indian soil. The mushrooming of private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is mostly for commercial purposes. How many can afford this expensive education model? We as educators need to question the purpose of many of these institutions and need to seek accountability from each one of them towards nation building and social commitment.

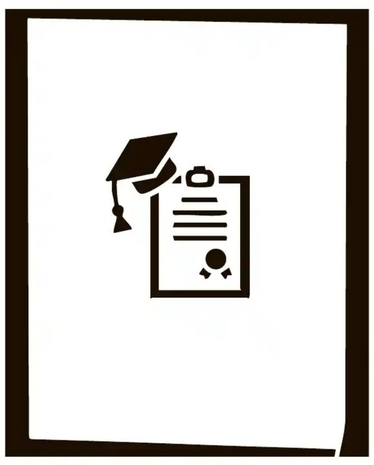
The SEP is clear that foreign universities can help local institutions by hand-holding them in technology transfer, joint research, student and teacher exchanges, leading to improvement in the quality of education as well as making higher education affordable.

The SEP's focus is on improving quality and making education affordable as well as promoting social justice, keeping girl child, Muslims, OBCs, SC/STs in mind, in continuation with the socialistic policies of our Constitution.

The SEP is silent on how higher education institutions would fare in the NAAC and NIRF assessments, as one of the important questions raised by the assessors is how the NEP is being implemented and, more importantly, whether the institutions have adopted the Outcome Based Education (OBE) model, Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

Apart from losing out on funds and grants and grants from UGC and other funding agencies for non-implementation of NEP, the institutions following SEP would lose out on NAAC and NIRF rankings as well.

The present assessment and ranking systems in India assess institutions from urban centers to rural areas and remote areas as well as private and government institutions on the same parameters. Most top ranking HEIs enroll students with a very high cut-off percentage. What is the point of educating a brilliant student and maintain their intellectual upward trend? Both the NEP and SEP are silent on this issue.



HEIs should prioritise educating first-generation learners, girl students, single parent students, kids coming from socio-economically backward sections of the society, kids of unskilled migrant labourers, Dalits and Adivasis who need a helping hand for upward mobility.

It is the responsibility of HEIs to produce socially responsible students who become global citizens aware of their and others' human rights, constitutional obligations and a concern for our common home – mother Earth.

As lack of infrastructure plagues HEIs in rural areas, government and policy makers would do well to concentrate on bridging the infrastructural gaps between the urban-rural divide among these HEIs by investing and seeking corporate funding.

The emphasis of NEP on AI, multi-disciplinary learning, machine learning, skill enhancement sounds very good and welcoming, but the basic question again is to find out if we are equipped to teach these courses in rural areas where 43% of our universities and 61.4% of colleges are located.

The SEP has come out with a two-language policy, which is welcome. Today, the world needs young minds with holistic education where students are taught to have a balance between academics, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development irrespective of their class, caste, colour, creed or gender.

The focus should be on skill development, including life skills, social skills and soft skills, making them competent and futuristic as compassionate individuals.

True inclusivity in higher education cannot be realised through policy rhetoric alone; it demands an overhaul of institutional ethos, infrastructure and pedagogy.

While the SEP proposes corrective measures for structural inequities, its success rests on whether it can foster ecosystems that genuinely support the marginalised—not just in access, but in academic success, retention and upward mobility.

As Paulo Freire emphasised in *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, education must be "the practice of freedom", enabling learners to perceive social, political and economic contradictions and to take action against oppressive elements.

The challenge, therefore, is not merely to widen the gates of higher education but to reform what lies within. Inclusion must be accompanied by curricular transformation.

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS), for example, cannot be relegated to a symbolic component but must be organically woven into pedagogy to restore epistemic balance long lost to colonial frameworks. Likewise, the two-language policy has the potential to empower learners from vernacular backgrounds, provided the policy is implemented with adequate teacher training and resource development.

Digital learning, a cornerstone of NEP, raises further questions. Without addressing the digital divide, particularly in rural and remote HEIs, the vision of a hybrid or online-driven model may deepen educational inequity.

The component of practical education cannot be supplemented by online theory-based teaching. A holistic approach requires synchronising technological advancement with infrastructural and pedagogical readiness. Investment must be directed not only toward digital tools but also toward localised teacher capacity, linguistic accessibility and context-relevant content.

Inclusivity must be seen not as an addendum but as the very framework upon which quality higher education rests. As articulated in the Constitution's Preamble, justice—social, economic, and political—remains the cornerstone of the Republic. Higher education as a public good must reflect and reinforce this constitutional mandate in spirit and in practice.

(Victor is vice chancellor and Paul is professor and dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, St Joseph's University)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

To ma'am, with love

She brought melody to our lives in more ways than one

SUDHA BELAWADI

The thought of moving into a flat was unsettling, to say the least. Having grown up in an independent house, an apartment felt like a loss of freedom. In Bengaluru, our home overlooked an empty street, with a Jacaranda tree in front and its flowers scattered across the ground. It was a sight to behold. I still remember learning to cycle on Nanda Road, as we used to call it, a shaded canopy of lush green trees.

Slowly, I grew accustomed to apartment life as I met people in the community. But it was one enterprising lady who changed my perception about living in a gated community. With great élan, she guided the gardeners, offering tips on every plant in the landscape. While the garden was taking shape, I watched her nurture children with equal care. Thanks to Lalitha Jaganathan, my unease about apartment living disappeared.

It was early 2020 when we first heard news of a dangerous virus spreading rapidly in faraway China. None of us imagined it would soon reach our shores. But Covid-19 arrived, and with it, a nationwide lockdown. Life ground to a halt. That's when my beloved music teacher, Lalitha Jaganathan, called to ask if I would join her online music class. I couldn't have wished for a better way to spend that time.

What started as a music class slowly turned into an emotional journey for me. While learning 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa', I began to see in her the mother I had lost in 2022. When she reprimanded me for missing class, I saw affection in her tone. She would ring early in the morning with her firm question: "Are you free to attend the class today?" It was more to do with her missing me and a manner of enquiring if I was alright than anything else.

Our little class of five students found in her a long-lost aunt, sister, mother and confidante. We found solace in her presence. After the lockdown, we returned to one-on-one classes. Festivals became our highlight – discussing which songs to sing, what colours to wear and who would cook what. Our joy knew no bounds. In group practice, she was firm about thala and shruthi. If one of us faltered, her sharp glare would send us into fits of giggles – usually triggered by me. So, during festivals, when we sang in front of a small audience, the instruction would be to keep an eye on me so my giggling wouldn't set off a 'ripple effect'. We miss all these mischievous pleasures which kept us young and lively.

As the days rolled over, our dear teacher's health started deteriorating; her lungs grew weak. But she didn't stop. With an oxygen tube stuck to her nostrils, she continued teaching us. On June 25, 2025, she breathed her last.

From her, I learnt more than music – some precious home truths, like how to live life without complaining, how to nurture hobbies, practise discipline, celebrate life, and connect with people around us. She brought melody to our lives in more ways than one. Today, the plants in our garden seem to long for her loving touch and warm smile.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pragmatic dialogues vital for regional stability, growth

The 55-minute long meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO summit marks a pivotal moment in contemporary geopolitics, particularly in the context of US President Donald Trump's turbulent policies that have unsettled global relations. The duration of the dialogue underscored a deliberate seriousness, revealing that neither New Delhi nor Beijing can afford estrangement. PM Modi used the opportunity to firmly flag India's cardinal concern: the menace of cross-border terrorism, which remains both a regional destabiliser and a test of Chinese sincerity in balancing its Pakistan equation. Pragmatic dialogue, however fraught, remains indispensable for two civilisational giants shaping their own regional destiny.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

2-language policy

This refers to '3-language formula a threat to Kannada identity: Activists" (Aug 31). Understanding and knowing our own script and language should be our first priority, as it is the way to preserve our cultural identity. Karnataka must prioritise our culture and adopt a two-language policy. India is a democratic country with a diverse range of cultures, races, etc. Like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka must adopt a two-language policy. People can learn Hindi if they choose to, but it should not be made compulsory.
Anry Haokip, Bengaluru

Recipe for disaster

Apropos 'After teen's death, spotlight on loopholes in cracker safety' (Aug 31), a large procession with unruly crowds dancing and bursting crackers on crowded roads is a recipe for disaster. Urban areas must have effective crowd management protocols and stringent guidelines in place. The authorities concerned must deploy sufficient police forces, create designated zones for fireworks away from the crowd, and enforce safety rules.
Sourav R, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The spectacular GDP growth in this quarter has proved that no one can manage the economy better than PM Modi. Everyone in the world is saying that PM Modi is running the Indian economy in the best way.

Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister

What valour cannot win, flattery may.
Publilius Syrus

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

GST Council meet: Slabs and snags

The proposed changes have revenue implications for both the Centre and the states

NAJIB SHAH

The critical Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting to discuss the Centre's proposal for 'significant reforms' in GST is slated for September 3 and 4. The proposed reforms span three pillars — structural changes, rate rationalisation and ease of living.

It is the second sub-pillar under rate rationalisation — the 'move towards a simpler tax structure with two slabs, standard and merit, with special rates only for a few select items' — that is drawing the most attention. The multiplicity of rates (5%, 12%, 18%, 28%, along with separate rates for diamonds, precious stones and gold/silver) has long been a lightning rod for criticism. There was little appreciation for the fact that, when GST was introduced, the Centre had to balance equity and revenue considerations, and offer an extraordinary sweetener to the states in the form of a compensation cess to offset potential revenue losses due to GST implementation.

So, the present announcement is welcome—after eight years, a review was indeed overdue. But the speed at which matters are moving has caught everyone by surprise. There is talk of implementing the changes by Navaratri.

These proposed changes have revenue implications for both the Centre and the states. It may be recalled that total GST revenue in FY 2024–25 stood at Rs 22.08 lakh crore. With the 12% slab, which contributes around 5%, being done away with, the movement of nearly 99% of goods from the 28% slab to the 18% slab, and the push to meet aspirational goals of the common man (suggesting a shift of some goods from the 18% slab), there is bound to be a revenue impact. Estimates of the potential annual revenue loss range from Rs 85,000 crore (State Bank of India research) to Rs 1.1 lakh crore (UBS report). The compensation cess is likely to end in March 2026.

Discussions around possible buoyancy, a spurt in demand and consumption, and a resulting increase in revenue are, as Donald Rumsfeld infamously put it, "known unknowns" and "unknown unknowns" — offering little respite to the states. The uncertainties caused by the impact of US tariffs on revenue and employment, the recent ban on the online gaming industry, which resulted in a revenue loss of over Rs 20,000 crore, must also be kept in mind. The elbow room available to states for raising revenue is limited. The Centre will have to do a lot of number crunching in the GST Council to assuage the concerns of all states.

The concerns will not be limited to opposition-run states, which are likely to voice them loudly, but will also come from ruling party-led states, which would do so within the confines of their respective Vidhana Soudhas. Promises by parties that lead to 'public welfare measures provided free of charge', as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) terms them, span the entire political spectrum and are a fact of life of our current political economy. So, there should not be any finger-pointing or pontification.

The Centre's financial position is also stretched — RBI's regular dividend payouts notwithstanding, they cannot make good the loss. The Centre must necessarily offer some out-of-the-box solutions to address the shortfall in states' commercial tax collections — at least until the contours of the new tax regime settle. It should not be forgotten that the present proposal has come from the Centre, not from the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted for this purpose. The Centre must now show the same magnanimity in listening to the concerns of the states as it did during earlier periods of fiscal stress.

The issue of revenue should not distract from other important matters likely to be on the agenda of the GST Council. The inverted duty structure, where the tax on inputs exceeds that on the final product, leading to the accumulation of input tax credit, has long been a problem under GST and is likely to worsen with rate rationalisation. Exemptions also contribute to such accumulation and must be pruned.

Refund mechanisms should be robust and transparent. A national advance ruling authority is needed to address the issue of conflicting rulings issued by various state advance ruling authorities. The GST Tribunal must begin functioning urgently to reduce the load on the courts. The GST Network (GSTN) will need time to implement the changes once approved by the Council, as will the industry, which must rise to the occasion and ensure that the benefits of rate reduction are passed on to consumers.

There is too much at stake for both the Centre and the states — the goal of a Viksit Bharat demands that both parties approach the meeting with an open mind and in the 'true spirit of cooperative federalism'.

(The writer is retired chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs)

Migrant workers let down by Karnataka's blind spots in data and policy

D JEEVAN KUMAR

Karnataka's growth story is incomplete without acknowledging its migrant workers. From Bengaluru's glittering skyline to its garment factories, domestic services, and the booming app-based gig economy, migrants form the invisible backbone of the state's urban economy. Yet, while their labour powers Karnataka's dynamism, their lives remain precarious, their rights uncertain, and their voices unheard.

Recent estimates reported in *DH* (Aug 24) suggest that nearly 85% of Karnataka's migrant workers come from six states—Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. This concentration underlines the state's dependence on interstate mobility. The paradox is that even as Karnataka draws this large workforce, its labour department does not maintain accurate, real-time data. Instead, it relies heavily on employer filings, which exclude informal, self-employed, and contract-based workers. The absence of credible statistics creates a policy vacuum where the most vulnerable fall through the cracks of welfare and social protection.

The Covid-19 pandemic revealed this fault line with brutal clarity. If a crisis of such magnitude left the backbone of Karnataka's workforce so exposed, it was because invisibility had already been normalised.

A growing body of research documents the lived realities of migrants in Karnataka. The findings are sobering:

Precarious work: The Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS) highlights how construction and gig workers live with irregular incomes, unsafe conditions, and little bargaining power.

Health vulnerabilities: NIMHANS and St John's Medical College studies point to high rates of occupational injuries, respiratory problems, and substance abuse among young male migrants in construction.

Job losses and exclusion: *The State of Working India* report by Azim Premji University found that informal migrants in Bengaluru were disproportionately affected by job losses, with many unable to recover livelihoods.

Educational disadvantage: Research by the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) shows migrant children struggling to access hostels, scholarships, and continuity in schooling, often dropping out due to mobility and language barriers.

Welfare gaps: A Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS) study revealed persistent problems of wage theft, food insecurity, and exclusion from welfare schemes.

Governance lapses: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) flagged irregularities in Karnataka's Building and Other Construction Workers' (BOCW) Welfare Board, including bogus registrations and unspent funds.

Together, these studies paint a consistent picture: migrants sustain the city, but the city does not sustain them.

Six systemic deficits stand out in Karnataka's approach to migrant labour:

1. Data deficit — No reliable estimates of migrant numbers, their skills, or welfare coverage.
2. Insecure livelihoods — informality, wage theft, and weak enforcement of labour laws.
3. Housing and services gap — Dependence on slums and makeshift camps, with women and children at particular risk.
4. Patchy welfare portability — While One Nation One Ration Card and e-Shram exist, access on the ground remains inconsistent.
5. Weak grievance redressal — Language barriers, lack of awareness, and inaccessible complaint channels.
6. Climate vulnerability — Outdoor workers face rising heat stress, poor ventilation, and inadequate protection.

These challenges are interlinked, trapping migrants in cycles of insecurity.

To balance economic dynamism with social justice, Karnataka needs a comprehensive migrant policy anchored in evidence and accountability. Key priorities include:

A. Data and governance

- Establish a migration dashboard integrating employer filings, e-Shram registrations, EPFO/ESIC data, and ward-level surveys.
- Digitise and verify BOCW records to eliminate bogus beneficiaries and ensure transparency.
- Sign MoUs with sending states for coordinated registration and grievance redressal.

B. Social Security and Entitlements

- Strengthen the One Nation One Ration Card system in Bengaluru and industrial belts.
- Link e-Shram IDs with state health, accident, and education schemes, supported by on-site registration camps.
- Implement the Karnataka Gig Workers' Welfare Act (2025) in spirit, not just in letter, by constituting a
- Welfare Board and ensuring aggregator contributions.

C. Housing and Services

- Expand dormitory-style hostels and rental housing near industrial zones through public–private partnerships.
- Provide women's hostels and family housing units with childcare facilities.
- Guarantee basic civic services — water, sanitation, electricity, and digital access — in migrant settlements.

D. Health, Safety, and Climate Resilience

- Deploy mobile health units and occupational safety audits at worksites.
- Run multilingual awareness campaigns and establish emergency helplines.
- Include migrants in city heat action plans and mandate shaded rest areas, hydration points, and cool-roof retrofits in settlements.

E. Education and Skill Development

- Ensure continuity of schooling through TCs, bridge courses, and bus passes.
- Expand scholarships, hostels, and vocational training tailored to migrant youth.

F. Civil Society Partnerships

- Fund help desks and worker facilitation centres at bus stations, labour *nakas*, and industrial hubs, in collaboration with civil society organisations and universities/institutions such as APU, IIHS, ISEC, and CBPS.

Migrant workers are not merely transient labourers; they are builders of Karnataka's economy and participants in its growth story. Recognising their dignity and securing their livelihoods is not charity—it is sound economic policy.

(The writer is a visiting professor at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag)

The first closing of an Apple Store in mainland China hints at broader troubles facing the country's shopping malls as developers open more of them despite a glut

KEITH BRADSHER

An Apple Store closed recently at InTime City, a mall where several other stores have also shuttered, in Dalian, China. NYT

China's problem of the great mall overbuild

There's nothing China can't make in abundance and often in excess — even shopping malls. Across the United States, 1 in 6 shopping malls has closed since the sector peaked in 2013. But China has been on a frenetic construction boom, with its number of malls doubling since 2013 to 6,700.

Many retailers in China are now feeling the consequences of that overbuilding. While some Chinese malls are thriving, others are withering from lack of customer traffic. Apple this month closed its store in the InTime City mall in Dalian, a port city in northeastern China. It was a first for Apple in the country, where the tech giant operates dozens of retail locations. Apple's second store in Dalian, at the Olympia 66 mall just 1.6 miles away, has remained open and even taken on employees from the defunct store.

All over the world, shopping malls are wilting under fierce competition from e-commerce. The competition is especially fierce in China, where home delivery is particularly cheap and convenient. An estimated 10 million people work in delivery, many on electric scooters, but some are starting to use self-driving trucks and even drones.

The real problem in China's shopping mall sector, as it is in much of China's real estate sector, is years of frenetic, debt-fuelled construction. Developers have continued a building blitz despite a sharp slowdown in retail sales that started during the Covid-19 pandemic and has continued since.

One reason for the continued construction of malls is China's tax system. Local governments, which have enormous influence over what gets built in their jurisdictions, derive considerable sales taxes from malls. Apartment buildings, on the other hand, pay almost no annual real estate taxes. So local officials often require that new malls be included in big real estate projects, and the construction isn't stopping.

Last year alone, 430 malls opened across China. By contrast, the United States, which has a quarter of China's population, now has 1,107 malls, according to CoStar, a commercial real estate data firm.

Ron Johnson, who founded Apple's retail business as a top aide to the company's longtime leader, Steve Jobs, said that even before he left Apple in 2011, he could tell that China was building more malls than it needed.

"Developers all over were putting up significant malls, and you knew they weren't all going to make it," Johnson said.

A close look at the InTime City mall and Olympia 66, as well as five other malls in Dalian, shows how the mall sector across China is rapidly dividing into winners and losers.

The InTime City mall is one of the losers. The entrance to Apple's former store, which opened in 2015, is blocked by white boards. Along the same hallway, the storefronts of a former Boss clothing store and shops of other brands are closed with signs that say "Coming Soon" in English and Chinese without any other information.

The InTime City mall declined requests for comment. Local media has reported that the mall ran into a financial crisis in 2022, near the end of China's almost three years of "zero-Covid" lockdowns and quarantines, and has been the subject of litigation since then.

A nationwide crash in apartment prices after Beijing tried to rein in a decades-long real estate bubble has erased much of the savings of China's middle class, leaving it reluctant to spend. Not only malls are hurting: Two-thirds of department stores also experienced falling sales and profits last year, according to survey results released in April by the government-affiliated China Commerce Association for General Merchandise in Beijing.

"The core issue can be attributed to declining customer flow and spending power," the report concluded.

Dalian itself is doing better than many cities, however. It is home to manufacturers of factory equipment and builders of naval warships, national priority industries that benefit from billions of dollars in investments. It is also a tourist destination. Retail sales climbed 7.4% in Dalian in the first half of this year compared with the same period last year.

Jerry Mao, an owner of Shanghai Tang, a luxury clothing and lifestyle retailer, said Dalian was an attractive market, so he is actively looking at the city's malls to choose one for a new store. He said he would not choose InTime City because other malls in Dalian had more energy and customers.

"The good malls have always done well in China — bad malls cannot survive," Mao added.

For Apple, the challenges in China are not limited to picking the right malls for stores. Apple faces competition from Chinese-made devices, as well as broader headwinds from weak consumer spending. Many customers now choose Chinese smartphone brands like Huawei and Xiaomi.

A government cash-incentive program for consumers to buy manufactured goods has helped producers of everything from smartphones to electric cars. For the three months ending in June, Apple's sales in mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao were up 4.4% from a year earlier, and its operating income was up 4.7%.

Apple said it expected to end the year with 58 stores in China, the same number it had in January. It closed the store at the InTime City mall after other retailers there had closed, it said.

The InTime City mall opened in 1999 as the Parkland Mall in what was Dalian's most fashionable neighbourhood. It was on the city's best-known shopping avenue in a century-old historic neighbourhood with narrow streets.

Ji Haidan, a neighbourhood resident, still remembers when he first saw the newly built mall's glass wall facing pedestrians. "This was a very high-end mall," he said, standing near the closed Apple Store.

The area around the mall has changed. When it opened, Dalian had fewer than 175,000 registered vehicles. Today the city has 2.17 million cars and trucks, and the number is projected to keep growing.

Dalian residents and tourists try to beat the traffic by using the city's new subway system. But the InTime City mall was marooned by the city government's decision to open two subway stations several hundred yards away and not right underneath it. Malls on top of those subway stations were full of visitors on a recent afternoon.

"Parking is a real problem right now, so when everyone can travel by public transport, they can avoid traffic jams," said Dou Xue, the deputy general manager of the Dalian MixC mall, which is on top of another subway station.

Like malls in the United States, Chinese malls are turning to entertainment and restaurants to lure people out of their homes.

In Guangzhou, the commercial hub of southeastern China, the Grandview Mall has attracted crowds by opening an extensive aquarium. In Dalian, the Pavilion Shopping Centre recently arranged for a local music school to hold a children's music competition before lunchtime, hoping parents would stay for a meal.

The InTime City mall, like many older malls in China, has about one-sixth of its space devoted to eateries. Newer malls, like the bustling Pavilion and Olympia 66 malls, fill almost a third of their space with restaurants. Dining out cheaply is one of the brighter spots in Chinese consumer spending these days. Gift shops also remain popular with a key audience at Chinese malls: young women and teenage girls. Gu Meilin, a young Dalian resident, prowled a gift shop at the Pavilion mall this month.

The New York Times

Dowry's cruel hold on marriage

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

Recently, a young woman in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, was burnt alive over dowry. Her six-year-old son witnessed the ghastly crime. Only a few days earlier in Ghaziabad, another woman was harassed despite her parents having spent Rs 75 lakh on her wedding. She was not only pressured for more money but also subjected to body shaming. She chose to resist and approached the police.

India takes pride in its achievements—space missions, digital start-ups, and global recognition. But beneath this veneer of modernity persists an old cruelty: dowry. Despite decades of progress, this practice continues to corrode our social fabric.

Dowry, once considered *streedhan* —a daughter's security— has in many cases degenerated into extortion.

The Ghaziabad case illustrates this well: despite a lavish wedding, demands continued. Many such cases of dowry-related violence against women go unreported and receive little media coverage. Greed, it seems, has no ceiling – cars, flats, foreign trips, gold, gadgets, the list is endless.

The constant pressure of dowry demands and accompanying humiliation can take a heavy toll on a woman's mental health and wellbeing. The abuse she suffers—emotional, verbal and sometimes physical—often remains hidden from outsiders. Its corrosive effects accumulate over time, and when murder occurs, it is usually the final stage in a long cycle of violence. Without access to effective legal and societal remedies, victims remain vulnerable.

According to a July 2025 media report, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recorded an average of 7,000 dowry deaths annually between 2017 and 2022 — nearly 42,000 women in five years.

Equally shocking is our silence. It is an endorsement. Every unchallenged dowry death gives perpetrators a free pass — a signal that society will forgive, forget, and move on. Dowry is not a fading custom; it thrives at the very core of what we call respectable society.

Dowry-related violence reflects a toxic blend of patriarchy, consumerism, and status obsession. Even educated, urban households that espouse gender equality may still participate in this practice. Weddings, especially destination weddings, have become platforms for displaying wealth -- pressure magnified by social media. Young couples begin married life burdened with financial expectations rather than trust. What should be sacred is reduced to transaction.

This raises a blunt question: is marriage itself under threat in India? Not because of live-in relationships, Western influences, or women's independence—as some argue. But because of the rot within. Practices like dowry undermine trust, love, and respect – the very foundations of marriage.

For many educated and self-reliant young women today, marriage remains the unspoken subtext — no matter what they achieve, they are still expected to marry. Parents should not force their daughters to marry if they wish to continue studying or building their careers.

Can this culture be changed? Only through action on several fronts. Laws exist, but enforcement is weak. Delays in policing, judicial backlogs, and flawed investigations allow offenders to slip away. Legal reform must be reinforced by social reform.

Families must reject dowry outright – both giving and taking. Religious leaders and community elders should denounce it unequivocally. Citizens' groups need to mobilise with the same energy they show for other causes. Politicians and public figures can use their platforms to spread the message and condemn the scourge of dowry. For instance, in 2022, actor Akshay Kumar described dowry as a form of extortion and a social curse that continues to plague our society.

Most importantly, boys must be raised differently. Gender equality should be instilled from childhood, not taught as an afterthought in adulthood. Unless young men see marriage as a partnership of equals, dowry will outlast every law and campaign.

The murder in Greater Noida is not just one woman's tragedy; it is a mirror to our collective failure. As a civilised society, we need to confront the mindset of greed, silence, and complicity, lest dowry deaths continue to find a place in the headlines. The institution of marriage risks being reduced to a ledger marked by greed and loss.

(The writer is a Delhi-based journalist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

Indo-Soviet panel on social science research set up

New Delhi, August 31
Under the Indo-USSR cultural agreement, a joint commission has been set up to promote collaboration between India and the USSR in social science research. The Indian side of the commission is headed by Prof. Rasheeduddin Khan, member of the ICSSR and the USSR side is headed by B. G. Gafurov, Director, Institute of Oriental Studies USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow. Among the major areas for co- operation selected by the commission are exchange of visits of social scientists.

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

Cabinet nod for Bill to freeze LS seats till 2026

New Delhi, Aug 31
In order to boost population stabilisation measures in accordance with the recently adopted National Population Policy, the Union Cabinet today approved introduction of a Constitution (Amendment) Bill to extend the embargo on undertaking fresh delimitation of electoral constituencies up to the year 2026. Consequently, the number of seats in the Parliament and state legislative Assemblies will remain at the existing level for another 25 years.

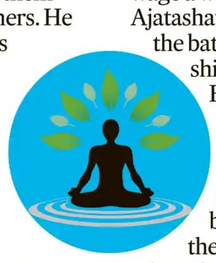
OASIS | S RADHA PRATHI

The shadow of overindulgence

It is natural for parents to adore their children and take pride in their achievements. However, when their love becomes blind, they become deluded and fail to ferret out the fallacies of their wards and guide them appropriately. They spare the rod and spoil the child. Eventually, they find themselves at the receiving end of their incorrigible children's misdeeds. Still worse, they push their beloved offspring into an unending guilt trip when they wake up to the realities of life.

An incident from the history of ancient India sums up this situation ever so succinctly.

Bimbisara, the king of Magadha, was proud of his children. He trained them in several arts and had them educated by the best of teachers. He had a special fondness for his firstborn, Ajatashatru. The crown prince grew up to be an intelligent, shrewd and savage megalomaniac.



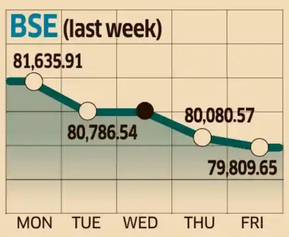
The king discerned that his son was accomplished but arrogant. The doting father attributed the overbearing nature of his son to his young age. Therefore, Bimbisara decided to ignore the flaws of his son, hoping that his boy would acquire noble qualities over a period of time.

A few years later, the king had to wage a war against Angadesham. Ajatashatru took the initiative to lead the battle. His strategic leadership led him to victory. King Bimbisara was elated by his young son's achievement and praised him lavishly. However, Ajathashatru was not the sort of person to be satisfied by mere adulation. He claimed the land won over by him. Bimbisara indulged his son by making him the regent of the acquired land.

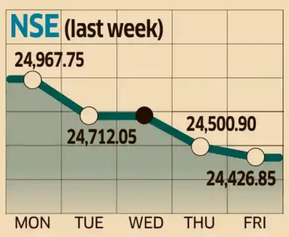
As the years rolled by, Ajathashatru's misguided thirst for power made him plot against his father. He seized the throne and imprisoned the king. When he observed that the people of Magadha were eyeing him with distaste, his insecurity and his obsession to be at the helm of affairs at the earliest prompted him to assassinate his father.

Ajatashatru achieved undiluted supremacy and conquered the neighbouring lands and became the undisputed sovereign of his times. His ambitions were fulfilled, but he could not enjoy his success. He blamed himself for executing his benefactor, who had nothing but benevolence for him.

That he finally found some solace while associating with the Buddha is another story.



*Data as of Aug 29



*Markets were closed on Wednesday due to Ganesh Chaturthi

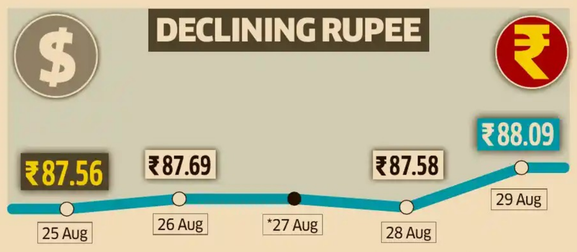
TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
MARUTI	3.06%	M&M	-6.01%
ITC	2.87%	RELIANCE	-3.71%
HINDUNILIVR	1.18%	HDFC BANK	-3.15%
TCS	1.01%	SUNPHARMA	-2.97%
ASIAN PAINTS	0.53%	POWERGRID	-2.82%

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
MARUTI	3.08%	HDFC BANK	-51.56%
EICHER MOT	3.01%	M&M	-5.98%
ITC LTD	2.87%	SHRIRAM FIN	-5.78%
HERO MOTO CO	1.80%	APOLLO HOSP	-3.94%
HINDUNILIVR	1.14%	RELIANCE INDS	-3.69%

Sensex (52-week)
Aug 29, 2024: 82,134.61 | Aug 29, 2025: 79,809.65 | -2.83%

Nifty (52-week)
Aug 29, 2024: 25,151.95 | Aug 29, 2025: 24,426.85 | -2.88%

10-year Bond yield 6.58%



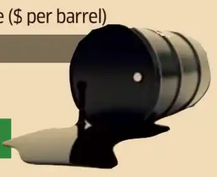
*Markets were closed on Aug 27 due to Ganesh Chaturthi

Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹ 88.09	SGD	₹ 68.89
Pound	₹ 118.57	Yen (100 units)	₹ 59.76
Euro	₹ 102.47		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)
BRENT CRUDE
$67.48*
-0.74%
*Rate as of Aug 30



Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹0%
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹0%

*Rates as of Aug 30 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹ 27000 - 28000
Arabica Cherry	₹ 14000 - 16300
Robusta Parchment	₹ 17500 - 18500
Robusta Cherry	₹ 11500 - 12750

*Rates as on Aug 28

Other Commodities
Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹ 661
Cross Breed (CB)	₹ 601

*Average rates as on Aug 29

'Listed pvt firms record slower sales growth in Q1'

Aggregate YoY growth of private manufacturers slipped to 5.3% from 6.6%

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sales of listed private non-financial companies rose by 5.5% year-on-year (YoY) during the first quarter ended June 2025 as compared to 7.1% growth in the previous quarter (6.9% in Q1FY25).

Aggregate sales growth (YoY) of 1,736 listed private manufacturing companies moderated further to 5.3% during Q1FY26 from 6.6% in the previous quarter, mainly dragged by weak performance of the petroleum industry, according to the data available on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) website.

Sales growth (YoY) of IT firms declined to 6% during Q1FY26 from 8.6% in the previous quarter, reversing the upward trend seen since Q1FY25.

Sales growth of non-IT services companies moderated to 7.5% in Q1:2FY26, after recording double-digit growth in the previous three quarters, primarily due to lower sales growth recorded by the transport and storage companies.

Manufacturing companies' expenses on raw material increased at a slower pace of 4.5% (YoY) as compared to 8.3% during previous quarter, in tandem with moderation in sales growth; consequently, raw material to sales ratio moderated to 54.1% during Q1 from 55.2% in the previous quarter (Table 2A and 2B).

Staff cost of manufacturing, IT and non-IT services companies rose by 8.3%, 5.8% and 8%, respectively, during Q1FY26, lower than the growth recorded during the previous quarter. Staff cost to sales ratio for manufacturing, IT and non-IT services companies inched-up to 5.9%, 48.8%, and 10.6%, respectively, during Q1FY26 from the previous quarter.

Operating profit growth of manufacturing and non-IT services companies moderated to 6.9% and 11.3%, respectively, while it improved to 5.4% for IT companies during Q1 from the previous quarter.

Consequently, operating profit margins improved sequentially for IT companies during Q1FY26, while it moderated for non-IT services sector; operating profit margin for the manufacturing sector remained stable during the quarter.

With sequential rise in profits, manufacturing companies' interest coverage ratio (ICR)1 improved to 9.1 in Q1FY26 from 8.7 in the previous quarter. Within the services sector, while ICR of non-IT services companies remained stable, ICR of IT firms continued to remain at elevated levels during Q1FY26.

Performance of Listed Non-Government Non-Financial Companies

Indicator	Q1:2024-25		Q4:2024-25		Q1:2025-26	
	Amount in Rs Crore	Y-o-Y Growth in per cent	Amount in Rs Crore	Y-o-Y Growth in per cent	Amount in Rs Crore	Y-o-Y Growth in per cent
No. of Companies	2,934		2,936		3,079	
Sales	16,02,799	6.9	17,99,310	7.1	17,51,698	5.5
Value of Production	16,15,533	7.5	18,20,951	8.5	17,64,822	5.5
Expenditure, of which	13,55,163	7.1	15,28,304	8.4	14,75,885	5.2
Raw Material	6,26,745	6.4	7,19,963	8.4	6,83,156	4.8
Staff Cost	1,72,473	7	1,81,875	8.1	1,90,274	7.1
Power & fuel	58,932	1.9	55,088	0.1	54,892	-6.1
Operating Profits	2,60,370	9.6	2,92,648	8.9	2,88,937	7.3
Gross Profits (EBIT)	2,44,378	10.2	2,73,015	9.1	2,80,912	9.3
Net Profits	1,58,592	14.2	1,98,261	29.1	1,89,438	17.6

SOURCE: RBI

US TARIFF : The debilitating sectoral impact

Kashmiris fear the loss of a market of irreplaceable magnitude

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The steep 50% tariff imposed on Indian merchandise by the US has inevitably triggered panic among Kashmiri carpet exporters, who see it as a crippling hit on one of the Valley's oldest and most labour-intensive trades.

Kashmiri carpets will now attract a staggering 52.9% duty in the United States, up from just 2.9% earlier. Exporters say the unprecedented hike will make the hand-knotted rugs prohibitively expensive for American buyers, who have for decades formed the backbone of Kashmir's export market.

"The US has always been our most dependable market. A Kashmiri carpet worth $5,000 will now cost over $7,500 after duty. How will customers afford that?" asked Sheikh Ashiq, a Srinagar-based exporter. "This could be the death knell for an art that sustains thousands of families here."

The centuries-old Kashmir arts industry is one of the Valley's largest employers after agriculture, engaging weavers, dyers, designers and traders. A major chunk of its products are exported, with the US traditionally accounting for the biggest share.

According to trade data, other labour-intensive sectors such as woven apparel, diamonds, furniture, and textiles are also reeling under tariffs in excess of 50%. Carpets, however, are particularly vulnerable given their dependence on the US market, which accounts for nearly 60% of total exports.

Industry insiders say the tariff shock has arrived at a time when the sector was already reeling from dwindling global demand, competition from machine-made carpets and the after-effects of political unrest in Kashmir.

Exporters fear that unless New Delhi negotiates relief from Washington, Kashmiri carpets will lose their competitive edge in the American market, potentially wiping out livelihoods across the Valley.

"We cannot simply find new markets overnight," said Ashiq. "It took decades to build trust in the US. If buyers walk away now, we will be left with warehouses full of unsold stock."

For weavers, the tariff war feels like a blow beyond their control. "We only know how to knot threads into patterns taught by our ancestors," said Ghulam Nabi, a weaver. "But what will we do if there is no buyer left for our work?"

As trade tensions escalate, Kashmir's famed carpets—once prized symbols of luxury in American homes—face an uncertain future, trapped in the crossfire of global politics.

(L) Kashmiri carpets .(R) Ghulam Qadir, 75, weaves a Kashmiri hand-knotted carpet inside his workshop in Srinagar, Kashmir. REUTERS/SHARAFAT ALI

Shrimp exports to see 15-18% decline: Crisil

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

India's shrimp export industry is staring at a fall of 15-18% (in volume) post-US tariff, which coupled with countervailing duty (CVD) and anti-dumping duties amount to a heavy burden of 65% levies, according to a new Crisil report.

The tariff increase threatens to devastate the livelihoods of 2.8 crore people across India, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, who depend on the seafood sector. This includes fishermen, aquaculture farmers, processing workers, packaging staff, and transporters whose economic survival is tied to shrimp exports.

The lower revenues, coupled with exporters' inability to pass the tariff burden to customers, will erode operating profit margins by 150-200 basis points, the Crisil report revealed Friday. The combination of reduced revenues and compressed margins will weaken debt protection metrics and put pressure on credit profiles across the industry.

Responding to the crisis, the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) has recently submitted a comprehensive memorandum to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, outlining urgent relief measures. Andhra Pradesh Chambers President Potluri Bhaskar Rao has called for the union government to establish a high-powered committee with stakeholders to address issues on a daily basis, along with duty drawbacks and freight subsidies to offset tariff costs.

The US has historically been India's most lucrative shrimp market, accounting for 3,11,948 metric tonnes in 2024-25, followed by China at 1,36,164 metric tonnes, according to the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). The American market has remained attractive despite previous anti-dumping and countervailing duties, and even after a 10% reciprocal tariff imposed in April 2025, because customers absorbed portions of the additional costs.

Type of seafood	Share in exports
Frozen shrimp	44%
Frozen fish	20%
Frozen squid, cuttlefish & other chilled & live items	36%
Ports	
Visakhapatnam	31.52%
Navi Mumbai's JNPT	10.81%
Kochi	9.70%
Chennai	7.75%
Kolkata	7.49%
State	**Value of Seafood exports (in US $) (in million)**
Andhra Pradesh	2,536.77
Tamil Nadu	840.11
Kerala	829.42
West Bengal	518.71
Gujarat	702.75
Telangana	73.44

However, the dramatic increase to over 50% tariffs puts India at a severe competitive disadvantage against Ecuador, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand, most of which face tariffs less than half of India's rate. This disparity threatens to make Indian shrimp exports to the US economically unviable for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Operating margins are expected to plummet to a decadal low of 5.0-5.5% this fiscal year due to three critical factors, the impact of tariffs plus levies, lower capacity utilization resulting from revenue losses, and reduced sales of value-added and large shrimps that were primarily exported to the US and commanded premium prices.

Crisil Ratings Senior Director Rahul Guha warned that the challenges will discourage farmers from continuing investments in shrimp culture. "The mounting risks of diseases, reduced harvests, and unprofitable global prices were already pushing farmers toward alternative cultures requiring lower investments and carrying limited risks. This process will accelerate due to the tariff impact. Consequently, diversification of exports and increasing domestic consumption will be crucial for the long-term viability of shrimp farming," Guha said.

Despite the setbacks, Indian shrimp exporters retain certain competitive advantages, including evolved domestic infrastructure and established distribution networks in the US. Since production capacity in competing countries is not expected to rise substantially in the near term, Indian processors may find opportunities by redirecting exports to alternative markets.

The potential India-UK free trade agreement could provide preferential access to British markets, while existing relationships with China and Russia offer additional diversification opportunities that could partially offset volume losses in the second half of this fiscal year.

PHOENIX PHENOMENON

Thoothukudi's industrial resurgence: From Sterlite shutdown to EV production

E.T.B. SIVAPRIYAN
THOOTHUKUDI (TN), DHNS

Seven years after protests brought the shutters down on the Vedanta-owned Sterlite Copper in 2018, Thoothukudi seems to have finally shaken off its anti-industry image. The closure hurt its economy real bad, spelling not just job loss but also crippling upstream/downstream units relying on the copper smelter for business.

There were those intermittent demand from locals for reopening of the polluting factory, but Sterlite Copper has shifted most of its equipment and chemicals to the Silvassa facility, having exhausted nearly all legal avenues for resuming operations.

Rising from its ashes was not easy for the city. But today, it has turned into a beehive of diverse industrial activity, sporting an electric vehicle (EV) making unit, a toehold in electronics and also renewable energy.

In a bid to revive the city's fortune, the DMK government, after its 2021 election victory, established a furniture park to counter the negative perception. the park remains largely unoccupied. Then came the game-changer push by the state government to decentralise industrial investment beyond Chennai. Thoothukudi gained from this, being forwarded as one of the location when Vietnamese EV maker came scouting for investment location. Thoothukudi's selling point was its port, giving easy access to export markets.

VinFast's entry in January 2024, building its first Indian unit from scratch in 18 months, accelerated Thoothukudi's industrial rejuvenation, drawing more investors to pick the 'Pearl City' as their destination.

It was VinFast's decision in January 2024 to choose Thoothukudi for its first India plant – the manufacturing unit was built from the scratch in a record 18 months – did accelerate the investment push in the city with many firms following suit. On August 4, this year, VinFast rolled out its first car from the factory. It, now, plans to bring its suppliers to the region to foster an ecosystem.

A regional investment conclave in early August brought in more players. It saw Kaynes Circuits Pvt Ltd commit to a Rs 4,995 crore investment in a unit to make printed circuit boards (PCBs), including high-density interconnect and flexible ones. Yeemak & Jeanuvs pledged Rs 3,400 crore for multilayer PCB and radar system manufacturing unit. Singapore-based RGE will invest Rs 4,953 crore to establish its first man-made fibers plant in India.

Thoothukudi is also being promoted as a hub for India's commercial space industry. The state government is planning a Space Park as ISRO is building its second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and Pham Sanh Chau, CEO, VinFast (Asia), with the first car rolled out from the Thoothukudi plant. DH PHOTO

Adding to this momentum, Singapore's Sembcorp Industries is building a Rs 36,200 crore green hydrogen and green ammonia unit in Thoothukudi. This, along with Tirunelveli's rapidly growing Tata Power solar plant, is turning southern Tamil Nadu into a major destination for renewable energy projects.

"We had to send a clear message that the closure of one factory over environmental concerns should not dictate investment trends. The state consistently advocated for VinFast to choose Thoothukudi, and the transformation is now visible to all," a senior government official said.

Apart from the state government's active promotion, Thoothukudi's port and skilled workforce have played key roles in attracting companies.

Pham Sanh Chau, CEO (Asia), VinFast, told *DH* that Thoothukudi was chosen after inspecting 15 locations in six states because it met the requirements for proximity to both a seaport and an airport.

"We foresee Thoothukudi becoming the next major industrial and automotive hub. Its strategic location and port expansion plans make it the most viable option logistically for imports and future exports," he added.

The CEO also highlighted Tamil Nadu's "highly skilled workforce" as a key asset, expressing confidence that their expertise will help VinFast establish India not only as a key market, but also a global hub in sustainable mobility.

R Edwin Samuel, former Chairman of CII Thoothukudi zone, noted that investor sentiment was affected by Sterlite Copper's closure, but the district's resurgence over the past two years has established its reputation as a premier investment destination.

"VinFast started production in just 18 months, a remarkable pace and a positive indicator. The port provides a significant advantage, and further modernization of the port should be pursued. Offshore wind projects also have strong growth prospects, and the government should try to bring many projects to the region," Samuel told *DH*.

He added that the new terminal at Thoothukudi airport will further improve connectivity, enhancing the region's appeal to investors.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Dr Agarwal's Health Care
(ID: AGARWALEYE)
BUY
Upside +22%**
Last close ₹433
Target: ₹530*

Adani Portz & SEZ
(ID: ADANIPORTS)
BUY
Upside +29%**
Last close ₹1,313
Target: ₹1,700*

Godrej Consumer
(ID: GODREJCP)
BUY
Upside +17%**
Last close ₹1,243
Target: ₹1,450*

Dixon Technology
(ID: DIXON)
BUY
Upside +34%**
Last close ₹16,690
Target: ₹22,300*

HAL
(ID: HAL)
BUY
Upside +34%**
Last close ₹4,333
Target: ₹5,800*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

Is it time for a shift towards pay-how-you-drive models?

The Indian motor insurance industry is experiencing a technological revolution, where data innovations are disrupting traditional, comprehensive insurance models, driven by an increasing consumer demand for personalised solutions. As digital advancement is reshaping the landscape, the Indian motor insurance market is anticipated to grow from $13.19 billion in 2025 to $21.48 billion by 2030 with a CAGR of 10.25% during the period.

At the forefront of this shift is the 'pay-how-you-drive' (PHYD) model, which uses telematics technology to offer premiums based on individual driving behaviour. With the global rise of usage-based insurance, the question remains: is India ready to embrace this more personalised approach to motor insurance?

The industry is deemed to move towards personalised data-driven solutions that will care for what people want in their insurance. Global trends show a tremendous push toward usage-based insurance (UBI). The global UBI market is projected to be near $150 billion by 2027, growing by over 25% yearly, created by advancements in telematics and a myriad of consumer preferences for personal insurance solutions. India is on the cusp of early adoption of PHYD, with the top insurers bringing forth products that reward safe driving.

Limitations of traditional motor insurance

In India, motor insurance premiums have been fixed on broad parameters like a vehicle's make, model, engine capacity, location, and driver's demographic profile. Although this method simplifies underwriting, it lacks granularity for assessing individual risk. As such, safe drivers generally end up paying as much as high-risk drivers. Traditional insurance models also fail to incentivise safe driving behaviour as it makes no distinction in the premium according to a person's driving style, thereby giving no direct financial incentive for an individual's driving habits.

Rise of PHYD Insurance

Unlike traditional motor insurance, PHYD insurance departs from a fixed charging structure to a dynamic pricing model,

POOJA YADAV
CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER, ZUNO GENERAL INSURANCE

where premiums are decided based on real-time driving behaviour. Telematics technology, embedded within mobile apps or installed in the automobile through a plug-in device, provides insight into key driving parameters like speed, acceleration, braking patterns, cornering, and total miles. When the telematics data is analysed, a score for driving behaviour is considered, which further influences the premium charged to the insured.

Adoption of PHYD in India

Telematics-driven solutions have been incorporated into several Indian insurance solutions and recognised for their potential by some insurance providers. The safer the policyholder's driving habits, the more premium discounts they receive. In addition to pricing, PHYD provides feedback to customers about their driving habits. Drivers can consciously improve their scores to lower premiums while contributing to road safety. Gamification is another tool adopted by insurers that rewards better driving behaviour. This has resulted in favourable outcomes in terms of changing behaviour that lowers accident chances.

Benefits

Aligning premiums to the actual risk will enable insurers to price policies much more accurately, thus reducing adverse selection and increasing system sustainability. Policyholders, especially those who drive safely, will not bear the cost of high-risk drivers. Likewise, there are significant implications for road safety. Given India's high road accident rate, incentivising safer driving could lead to a substantial decline in casualties and fatalities.

Challenges in adoption

The adoption of PHYD in India holds tremendous potential, though it comes with a few challenges. Addressing data privacy concerns, enhancing telematics infrastructure, and alleviating consumer apprehension about continuous monitoring are key steps. By investing in consumer education about the benefits of PHYD, insurers can significantly boost their adoption and pave the way for a more innovative and efficient insurance landscape.

Gold + equity: A balanced approach to investing

It helps investors reduce drawdowns during periods of financial distress

CHETAN KUKREJA

Imagine you're building a racing car. Speed is crucial—but without strong brakes and balance, even the fastest car can crash. Momentum investing is like the engine—it thrives on strength and performance. But when market tides turn, this strategy can be vulnerable. That's where gold steps in—as a stabiliser, cushioning the portfolio during volatility. Together, momentum and gold offer a strategy that's not just about speed, but about staying power.

With markets swinging between euphoria and panic in recent years, investors have been searching for portfolios that can deliver better returns without extreme risk. Blending momentum with gold offers a powerful combination that aims to smoothen the investment journey—driven by growth, yet protected against shocks.

Momentum is not a market fad. Backed by decades of academic research, momentum investing follows a straightforward principle: stocks that have outperformed in the recent past tend to continue performing well in the short to medium term. This persistence in price action can be attributed to investor behavior, earnings growth persistence, and market inefficiencies. The Nifty 500 Momentum 50 index embodies this strategy by selecting the top-performing stocks based on their recent price strength adjusted for volatility.

Gold has long been recognised as a store of value and a hedge against inflation, currency depreciation, and global economic crises. For Indian investors, its importance is even more pronounced, given the rupee's tendency to depreciate against the US dollar during market downturns.

By integrating gold into an equity portfolio, investors can reduce drawdowns during periods of financial distress. The Gold + Momentum 50 strategy seeks to leverage this dynamic, offering a potential balance between stability and growth.

When momentum and gold are combined, the resulting strategy offers the potential to improve the investment experience. As of July 31, 2025, the performance data paints a compelling picture:

- The Nifty 500 index delivered annualised returns of -1.63% (1-year), 21.71% (5-year), and 13.67% (10-year).
- A 50:50 allocation to Nifty 500 Momentum 50 and gold yielded 8.55%, 21.86%, and 17.58% respectively over the same periods.

While absolute return differences may appear modest, the key advantage lies in smoother and more stable performance. Over a 5-year rolling period, the median return for the blended strategy stands at 16.89%, compared to 13.43% for the Nifty 500 over the same period. This demonstrates the strategy's ability to deliver better outcomes while mitigating sharp volatility spikes.

One of the most underappreciated yet vital aspects of portfolio construction is managing drawdowns—the magnitude of losses during market corrections. Historically, the Nifty 500 index has experienced a maximum drawdown of -63.71%. In contrast, the Gold + Momentum 50 strategy has managed to mitigate the drawdowns to just -32.58%.

This suggests that diversification within the strategy has historically played a role in stabilising returns during periods of market uncertainty, potentially helping investors experience smaller fluctuations and recover more steadily. By helping to limit extreme declines, this approach may enable investors to stay invested with greater confidence, ultimately supporting long-term wealth accumulation.

Another compelling aspect of this strategy lies in the correlation dynamics between momentum stocks and gold. While correlation can shift over time, historical data shows that gold tends to behave differently from equities during market stress—sometimes even showing negative correlation.

This inverse or low correlation is what enables the Gold + Momentum strategy to act as a shock absorber. During bullish phases, both components may contribute to returns. In downturns, gold often cushions the blow. The cyclical nature of this relationship creates a built-in hedging mechanism within the portfolio.

In an investing world full of noise and short-term distractions, long-term wealth creation hinges on discipline, diversification, and thoughtful asset allocation. The Gold + Momentum 50 strategy stands out by offering exposure to a momentum factor while embedding protection through an uncorrelated asset class.

Rather than chasing returns or reacting emotionally to market events, investors may consider blending gold and momentum to build a resilient portfolio that can thrive across market cycles. For those seeking a smarter path to sustainable growth with controlled risk, this approach merits serious attention.

(The writer is Head of Research, Passive Business, Motilal Oswal AMC)

THE WEEK AHEAD

The US & China hold the key to market mood

Back home, the GST council meeting, Q2 GDP will be in focus

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

The equity market is expected to trade in a range-bound manner this week, tracking developments on the India-US trade negotiations post the imposition of higher 50% aggregate tariffs on Indian goods. Further, market is likely to watch out for the outcome of PM Modi's much-anticipated visit to China, where he will be hobnobbing with Chinese & Russian Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin.

On the domestic front, focus will be on the GST Council meeting scheduled for September 3-4 to discuss the proposed GST reforms. Additionally, markets on Monday would react to India's Q2 GDP and US retail inflation data released after-market hours on Friday.

On the global macro front, US Fed Chair Jerome Powell used the closely watched Jackson Hole Symposium to send his strongest signal yet that the central bank is preparing to soon restart interest rate cuts. While he cautioned that inflation risks remain elevated, his tone was interpreted as dovish, raising expectations of a rate cut at the Fed's September 16–17 meeting.

Last week, Nifty 50 ended with a loss of 443 points at 24,427 (-1.8%), weighed down by concerns over high US tariffs on Indian goods. The broader market indices underperformed, with Nifty Midcap100 and Nifty Smallcap100 down by 3.3% and 3.9% respectively. Amongst sectors, realty and PSU banks were the worst hit, falling by 4.3% and 3.5%, respectively. Nifty FMCG was the sole gainer. up 0.7%, on hopes of increased demand, driven by the proposed GST rationalization. Market sentiment was further dampened by persistent FII selling, with outflows crossing Rs38,500cr for the month as on August 28.

On the sectoral front, the government's proposal to rationalise GST rates comes as a much-needed booster dose for the auto sector given that the bulk of the sector falls under the 28% slab, which is proposed to be reduced to 18%. This is expected to reduce vehicle prices by ₹7%, hence leading to a demand revival. Segmental beneficiaries include small cars (as SUVs are likely to be taxed higher), three-wheelers and commercial vehicles (as benefit for two-wheelers would be partially offset by ABS mandate).

We maintain a positive outlook on the cement sector, given: a) strong earnings growth in FY26E , b) stable pricing, c) increased consolidation, and d) favorable fuel prices. Stocks in key themes such as T&D, renewable, and defense remain our preferred picks.

We expect both staples and discretionary categories to perform well, particularly where mid-mass income households have higher sensitivity to growth. Further, defence stocks are likely to be in focus amid India's ongoing strategic engagements with global leaders, which could reinforce opportunities for collaboration, technology transfer, and long-term order inflows.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Presidents of Russia & China - Vladimir Putin & Xi Jinping

FPIs withdraw Rs 35K cr in Aug, highest in 6 months

NEW DELHI, PTI: Foreign investors pulled out Rs 34,993 crore (around $4 billion) from Indian equity markets in August, making it the sharpest sell-off in six months, weighed down by US tariffs on Indian exports and pricey domestic valuations.

The withdrawal was nearly double the Rs 17,741 crore outflow recorded in July.

With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities reached Rs 1.3 lakh crore mark so far in 2025, data with the depositories showed.

Market experts believe that withdrawals were triggered by a combination of global and domestic factors.

The latest withdrawal was the sharpest since February, when FPIs dumped Indian equities worth Rs 34,574 crore.

"The announcement of steep US tariffs of up to 50 per cent on Indian exports dented sentiment significantly, raising concerns over India's trade competitiveness and growth outlook," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment, said.

"At the same time, corporate earnings for the June quarter for a few key sectors fell short of expectations, further dampening investor appetite," he added.

According to V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, the simple explanation for this massive selling by the FPIs is the relatively high valuations in India compared to valuations in other markets. This is making FPIs to move money to cheaper markets. It is important to note that FPIs have been sustained buyers in the primary market for long.

Mcap of 8 of 10 most valued firms erode by Rs 2.24L cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 2,24,630.45 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank taking the biggest hit, in-line with a bearish trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark dropped 1,497.2 points, or 1.84%.

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) faced erosion from their market valuation, while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries tumbled Rs 70,707.17 crore to Rs 18,36,424.20 crore.

HDFC Bank's valuation eroded Rs 47,482.49 crore to Rs 14,60,863.90 crore.

The mcap of ICICI Bank tanked Rs 27,135.23 crore to Rs 9,98,290.96 crore and that of Bharti Airtel dropped Rs 24,946.71 crore to Rs 10,77,213.23 crore.

The valuation of LIC fell Rs 23,655.49 crore to Rs 5,39,047.93 crore and that of State Bank of India dived Rs 12,692.1 crore to Rs 7,40,618.60 crore.

The mcap of Bajaj Finance declined Rs 10,471.08 crore to Rs 5,45,490.31 crore and that of Infosys edged lower by Rs 7,540.18 crore to Rs 6,10,463.94 crore.

However, the market valuation of TCS jumped Rs 11,125.62 crore to Rs 11,15,962.91 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever climbed Rs 7,318.98 crore.

DIGITAL DRIVE

Why Bengalureans need the e-Khata, mandated by BBMP

AMIT AGARWAL

In a sweeping move towards digitisation and accountability in property ownership, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has made e-Khata mandatory for all property registrations under its jurisdiction from September 30, 2024. This digital transformation aims to eliminate ambiguity, prevent fraud, and increase transparency in Bengaluru's rapidly evolving real estate landscape.

Importance of e-Khata

The term Khata (meaning "account") refers to a crucial document maintained by BBMP that records property tax payments and verifies legal ownership. A valid Khata is essential for property registration, securing building permits, obtaining home loans, and entering into legal agreements.

Khatas are broadly classified into two categories:

A-Khata: Issued to properties fully compliant with building by-laws, tax regulations, and zoning norms. These properties have clear titles and are eligible for bank loans and building permits.

B-Khata: Issued for non-compliant or semi-legal properties, such as those with plan deviations, tax arrears, or lacking approvals. While these properties are recorded for tax purposes, they are not eligible for loans or permits and carry significant resale and legal risks. However, B-Khata properties can be upgraded by paying betterment charges and fulfilling required compliances.

To modernise this system, BBMP has introduced e-Khata, the digitised version of the traditional paper-based Khata. Available through Karnataka's official e-Aasthi or e-Swathu portals, e-Khata provides digital access to ownership records, tax details, and property documents. Offering the same legal status as A-Khata for compliant properties, e-Khata eliminates delays, human errors, and fraud associated with manual processes, creating a more efficient and secure way to manage property ownership.

The new July 2025 rule

Previously, apartment builders would complete construction and obtain an occupancy certificate (OC) from BBMP before registering flats in buyers' names. After the purchase, buyers were responsible for applying for a Khata (or e-Khata) individually.

However, under the new regulations effective 1 July 2025, builders are required to first register the e-Khata for each flat in their name before transferring it to buyers. This shift places the onus on developers to ensure all properties are digitally recorded and compliant from the outset.

Since launching the digital Khata system in October 2024, the BBMP has already processed and issued approximately 2.75 lakh e-Khatas, according to official data.

The impact

The transition to e-Khata impacts multiple stakeholders across the real estate ecosystem. For buyers, e-Khata is essential for validating ownership, clearing title checks, and securing home loans.

Investors benefit from the legal clarity it provides, simplifying due diligence and helping avoid fraudulent or disputed properties. Landlords rely on e-Khata as official proof of ownership when drafting legally binding rental agreements.

Tenants can use it to verify that the property is legally compliant and free from unauthorized construction. For developers, e-Khata has become mandatory for obtaining building plan approvals starting July 2025, placing the responsibility of compliance firmly on builders before transferring ownership to homebuyers.

The adoption of e-Khata brings several long-term advantages to Bengaluru's real estate landscape. It ensures transparency by providing public access to ownership and tax records, significantly reducing the risk of manipulation, duplicate claims, or disputes. It enhances efficiency, making transactions such as property sales, leases, and name transfers quicker, more reliable, and less dependent on manual paperwork. As a legally accepted proof of ownership, e-Khata also boosts loan readiness, helping buyers secure financing with minimal delays. Perhaps most importantly, it contributes to overall market hygiene by acting as a filter to identify and eliminate encroached, illegal, or non-compliant properties from formal dealings.

Challenges

Despite its many advantages, the rollout of e-Khata has not been without challenges. One key hurdle is stricter compliance, owners of B-Khata properties must undergo more rigorous scrutiny and fulfill additional requirements before their properties can be converted to e-Khata status. Digital accessibility is another concern, particularly for senior citizens and residents in semi-urban or rural areas who may find it difficult to navigate the fully online process without support. Additionally, administrative backlogs have led to delays in registration, with processing times often stretching between 15 to 30 days due to high application volumes and limited resources.

Government push

To accelerate adoption, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar recently launched a door-to-door e-Khata distribution drive in Byatarayanapura constituency. On July 1, the BBMP announced that 25,000 e-Khatas are ready for doorstep delivery, with plans to continue this initiative throughout the month.

In recognition of its impact, the e-Khata system received the Silver Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2024, reinforcing its role as a flagship initiative in digital property governance.

Conclusion

e-Khata is more than a bureaucratic update, it is the foundation for a more accountable, modern, and efficient real estate ecosystem in Karnataka. As the government pushes for full-scale digital adoption, buyers, sellers, and developers must treat e-Khata not as optional, but as essential.

Whether you're investing, constructing, leasing, or buying, ensuring your property is e-Khata-compliant is no longer just advisable. It's the law.

(The writer is CEO and Co-founder, NoBroker)

Modi likely to visit Manipur in mid-Sept

The Oppn has been calling him out for not visiting the violence-hit state

NEW DELHI/IMPHAL, DHNS & PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit ethnic violence-hit Manipur in mid-September, the first time in 28 months after the state witnessed violence between communities.

Modi is expected to visit Imphal and Churachandpur and meet people, who were displaced in the violence that started on May 3, 2023.

The visit comes amid Congress and other Opposition parties have been criticising Modi for not visiting the state, which has been put under President's Rule in February and extended by another six months in August.

The PM's Manipur visit is likely to be clubbed with his tour of Mizoram and Assam, which is scheduled between September 12 and 14, where he is expected to inaugurate key infrastructure projects.

'No confirmation'

Meanwhile, senior officials of the Manipur government on Sunday said there is no official confirmation as yet that the Prime Minister will visit the state, as reported in a section of the media.

Manipur's lone Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba of the BJP also said he has no information about the PM coming to the state.

On Friday, as Modi headed to China and Japan, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "even as the PM jets off abroad, the long-suffering people of Manipur are still awaiting his visit there to heal the wounds of May 2023."

On July 30, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in LS that no deaths due to violence have been reported in Manipur in the last four months, adding that only one person was killed in an incident in the past eight months.

Thadou leader killed days after Manipur peace meet

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Days after attending a 'Road to Peace' meeting with Meitei civil society organisations in Manipur, a leader from a Thadou literary body was allegedly murdered in Assam's Karbi Anglong district.

Thadou Inpi Manipur said on Sunday evening that Nehkam Jomhao (59), chairman of the Thadou Literature Society, Assam, was suspected to have been murdered on Saturday night at his residence in Manja village, Karbi Anglong. The organisation alleged the involvement of the Kuki Revolutionary Army and the United Kukigram Defence Army, in the incident.

Jomhao was among the prominent leaders who attended the 'Road to Peace' event in Imphal on August 6, where Thadou organisations had challenged the community to be part of the Kuki tribes and emphasised the need to promote peace with the Meiteis. This drew criticism from some Kuki organisations.

Nitish bets big on women voters with a flurry of schemes

It's to be seen whether they will be a game-changer this Bihar election

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Nitish Kumar

The Nitish Kumar regime in Bihar is rolling out one scheme after another to woo women voters. After reserving 35% of state government jobs for women born in Bihar, it has now promised Rs 10,000 to each woman aspiring to be self-employed.

The scheme, called Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojna, is primarily aimed at women in Bihar, who outnumber men on the voters' list. Under the scheme, the Bihar government will provide Rs 10,000 as the first instalment to each applicant seeking to do business. An additional assistance of Rs 2 lakh will be provided after assessing the applicant's needs.

The scheme will take effect from September 1, with funds to be transferred directly to the bank accounts of applicants.

The move comes close on the heels of the Opposition Mahagathbandhan, particularly the Congress and the RJD, promising cash incentives for women if voted to power.

In fact, the recent Assembly elections have shown a trend that women voters get swayed when schemes are launched for them in different states under different names and vote for those who promise them incentives. The latest being in Jharkhand, following successful experiments in Maharashtra, Haryana and Chhattisgarh. Notably, it was Madhya Pradesh, under Shivraj Singh Chouhan's dispensation, which initiated the Ladli Behna Yojna to woo women voters, a move that eventually fetched rich electoral dividends.

"Bihar is not following anyone. In fact, the Nitish regime has always set precedents for others to follow. Take, for example, the uniform scheme where girl students were given cash incentives for uniforms. Similarly, all girls who passed their Intermediate/Class XIIth exams became eligible for Rs 25,000 as a cash incentive, while those who completed graduation got Rs 50,000 each," said Nitish's close aide and minister Ashok Choudhary.

He elaborated on how the decision to reserve posts for women in civic bodies, along with 35% of jobs in the police, education and health departments, has empowered women since 2013. "Now, with the Cabinet implementing a domicile policy for women in Bihar government jobs, and the chief minister launching a self-employment scheme on Friday, this should go a long way in further empowering women," said the minister.

The ruling dispensation's strategy to woo women voters is understandable, given that out of Bihar's 7.2 crore voters, 3.7 crore are women. "In the 2020 Assembly elections, the turnout among women voters was 60%, compared to 54% among men," noted political scientist Ajay Kumar, explaining why the NDA regime and I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders are making ambitious promises to women.

EC rejects Cong claim of 89 lakh SIR complaints

SHEMIN JOY
PATNA, DHNS

A day before the culmination of 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' and the deadline for filing complaints on draft electoral rolls in Bihar, Congress on Sunday claimed that they have filed 89 lakh complaints of irregularities, but the Election Commission has rejected all of them.

The office of Bihar's chief electoral officer (CEO) rejected the allegations and said no booth-level agent (BLA) authorised by any district president of the Congress in Bihar had submitted any claim or objection on any deleted name. It said the Congress had submitted applications to delete 89 lakh names from the electoral rolls.

Congress Media and Publicity Department chairman Pawan Khera told reporters on Sunday, "The Election Commission, through its sources, plants stories in the media that no party is filing any complaint. The truth is that the Congress submitted 89 lakh complaints on irregularities in the SIR to the EC."

He added, "However, when our BLAs went to file complaints, the EC turned them down. It categorically told our BLAs that complaints could be accepted from individuals only, not by parties."

Khera claimed that more than 100 names each were deleted from 20,368 booths, 200 each from 1,988 booths, and that there were 7,613 booths where more than 70% of women voters' names had been removed.

In 635 booths, he alleged, more than 75% of the deleted names in the migrant category were of women.

"We have the receipts for these complaints. We hope that the EC will verify the data we have provided, and an investigation will be conducted into it," he said.

In its response, the Bihar CEO's office said in a statement that no BLA from the Congress had submitted any complaint in the prescribed format, and that the draft rolls published under the SIR on August 1 were not final.

More than 33,000 apply for re-inclusion in Bihar poll rolls

With just one day left for filing claims and objections during the SIR in Bihar, the Election Commission on Sunday said it has received 2.07 lakh applications for removing names from the electoral rolls.

It said 33,236 individuals out of around 65 lakh names deleted from the electoral rolls have also submitted applications for inclusion in the voters' list. The final voters list will be published on September 30.

The latest statement from the EC said that a total of 128 applications have been filed by Booth Level Agents of CPI(ML)L and RJD seeking inclusion or exclusion of voters from the electoral rolls.

The BLAs of CPI(ML)L have filed 15 applications for inclusion and another 103 for deletion of names. The RJD has filed 10 applications for inclusion of voters in the electoral rolls. The EC said 15.32 lakh new voters, who have attained 18 years or above, have also filed applications for inclusion in the voters list.

Trinamool ramps up booth-level push against voter list revision

KOLKATA, PTI: Trinamool Congress may oppose the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) politically, but on the ground, it has deployed a strategy combining administrative outreach with grassroots mobilisation to fight what it calls a "design by the BJP and the Election Commission" to disenfranchise voters.

Learning from Bihar—where over 65 lakh voters were removed during the SIR—TMC has mobilised its cadre down to the booth level, fearing a repeat in Bengal, which has 7.6 crore voters.

Trinamool vice-president Jaiprakash Majumdar said the party is using its strong booth network—currently 80,000, expected to reach 94,000—to monitor voter list revisions. "We are the only party in India with such a grassroots setup. We oppose the SIR but are ready on the ground," he said.

Workshops, training sessions, and task forces have been deployed. Special instructions have gone to party units to verify voter rolls and flag errors.

To strengthen this effort, the TMC has aligned public outreach schemes like 'Duare Sarkar' and 'Amar Para, Amar Samadhan' with the task. These government camps, attended by over one crore people in 26 days, now help issue residence, caste, land, and forest rights certificates—documents often needed for voter eligibility.

"In rural areas, people can't always access district offices. These camps are helping them get the necessary papers," said a senior TMC leader, noting that daily requests at documentation help desks have spiked from 80 to nearly 500.

In politically sensitive North Bengal—where the party slipped in recent polls—TMC's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has reviewed booth-level data across seven districts, urging leaders to weed out inactive workers and boost presence at weak booths. A major reshuffle of block and town presidents is expected in September.

The BJP has accused the TMC of doublespeak, citing that the party has submitted Booth Level Agent (BLA-1) names in five districts. Trinamool Congress leaders responded that this is to ensure presence during the process, not to endorse it.

Political analyst Suman Bhattacharya said TMC is blending governance with party machinery. "The aim is to ensure no voter is excluded due to lack of documentation, unlike in Bihar," he said.

Plea in SC seeks direction to frame rules to register political party

NEW DELHI, PTI: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the EC to frame rules for registration and regulation of political parties to promote secularism, transparency and political justice.

The plea alleged that "bogus political parties" were not only posing a serious threat to democracy but also maligning the country by appointing hardcore criminals, kidnappers, drug smugglers and money launderers as national and state office bearers after taking huge amounts of money from them.

"There are no rules and regulations for political parties. Therefore, many separatists have formed their political party to collect donations. Some office bearers of these parties have succeeded in getting police protection also," said the plea.

Referring to a recent media report, the plea claimed that the income tax department found a "fake" political party that was "converting black money into white by deducting 20% commission".

WORLD

Israel claims it killed Hamas armed wing spokesman

GAZA CITY, AFP: Israel said on Sunday its forces had killed the spokesman of Hamas's armed wing in a strike on Gaza a day earlier, the latest fatality in the group's senior ranks in the nearly two-year war.

"Hamas terror spokesperson Abu Obeida was eliminated in Gaza," Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a post on X, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier said he had been targeted in a strike.

Israel has decimated Hamas's leadership during 23 months of devastating fighting in the Gaza Strip, saying it seeks to eradicate the armed group and return hostages seized by Palestinian militants in their October 7, 2023 attack that sparked the war.

On the ground, as the sun rose on Sunday, smoke drifted into the sky above Gaza City and residents came to inspect the damage at a tent, crumpled in a strike, with bloodstained blankets strewn in the rubble.

Ashraf Abu Amsha, a displaced Palestinian sheltering in the area, said that "horror, fear, destruction, and fire erupted in all the tents."

Israel mulls annexation of West Bank over Palestine recognition

Move likely to draw condemnation from Arab and Western countries

JERUSALEM, REUTERS

Israel is considering annexation in the occupied West Bank as a possible response to France and other countries recognising a Palestinian state, according to three Israeli officials and the idea will be discussed further on Sunday, another official said.

Extension of Israeli sovereignty to the West Bank - de facto annexation of land captured in the 1967 Middle East war - was on the agenda for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet meeting late on Sunday that is expected to focus on the Gaza war, a member of the small circle of ministers said.

It is unclear where precisely any such measure would be applied and when, whether only in Israeli settlements or some of them, or in specific areas of the West Bank like the Jordan Valley and whether any concrete steps, which would likely entail a lengthy legislative process, would follow discussions.

Any step toward annexation in the West Bank would likely draw widespread condemnation from the Palestinians, who seek the territory for a future state, as well as Arab and Western countries. It is unclear where US President Donald Trump stands on the matter.

A spokesperson for Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar did not respond to a request for comment on whether Saar had discussed the move with his US counterpart Marco Rubio during his visit to Washington last week.

Netanyahu's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether the prime minister supports annexation and if so, where.

US would control Gaza, displace its people under new plan: Report

The entire population of Gaza would be relocated and the United States would take control of the Palestinian territory under a plan being considered by the Trump administration, the Washington Post reported Sunday, reports AFP.
The enclave reduced to rubble in Israel's war prompted by the Hamas attack of 2023 would be transformed into a trusteeship administered by the United States for at least 10 years, the newspaper said.
Another goal of the plan modeled on President Donald Trump's stated vision is to transform 'Gaza' into a tourism resort and high tech hub, said the Post.

Russia, China oppose 'discriminatory sanctions' against BRICS countries: Putin

Says both nations support IMF and World Bank reform

TIANJIN, PTI

Russia and China have taken a common stand against "discriminatory sanctions" that hinder the socioeconomic development of BRICS member countries, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said.

Putin, who arrived here to attend the Shanghai Cooperation (SCO) summit, made the remarks in an interview with China's state-run Xinhua news agency. He said that Russia and China are paying special attention to mobilising additional resources for critical infrastructure projects, and stand united in strengthening BRICS' ability to address pressing global challenges. The Russian president said that Moscow and Beijing take a "common stand against discriminatory sanctions that hinder the socioeconomic development" of BRICS members and the world at large.

Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomes his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at the SCO summit in Tianjin on Sunday. REUTERS

Putin's remarks came in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump threatening the member countries of BRICS with 10% tariffs. BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as its new members.

In the written interview with Xinhua, Putin said Russia and China support reforming the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

He added that the two sides share the view that a new financial system must be built on principles of "openness and true equity", which can provide equal and non-discriminatory access to its tools for all countries.

India's 'Educate Girls' bags historic Magsaysay Award

MANILA, PTI

An Indian non-profit working for education of out-of-school girls in remote villages is among the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees, it was announced Sunday.

The Foundation to Educate Girls Globally, widely known as 'Educate Girls,' has made history as the first Indian organisation to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award, a statement from the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) said here.

Considered the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, recognises greatness of spirit shown in selfless service to the peoples of Asia.

The other two winners include Shaahina Ali from the Maldives and Flaviano Antonio L Villanueva from the Philippines.

The 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees will each receive a medallion bearing the likeness of President Ramon Magsaysay, a certificate inscribed with their citation, and a cash prize. The 67th Ramon Magsaysay Award Presentation Ceremonies will be held on November 7 in Manila.

'Educate Girls' founded by Safeena Husain has been named for Asia's premier prize and highest honour for "its commitment to addressing cultural stereotyping through the education of girls and young women, liberating them from the bondage of illiteracy and infusing them with skills, courage, and agency to achieve their full human potential," the RMAF statement said.

Australian govt condemns campaigns targeting Indians

CANBERRA, PTI: The Australian government has disapproved of the campaigns taking place across various cities against increasing migration of Indians, saying this "brand of far-right activism grounded in racism and ethnocentrism" has no place in the country.

March for Australia rallies against immigration were held in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, among others. The Anthony Albanese government stands against the events planned for the weekend, the Australian government said in a release on Thursday. "All Australians, no matter their heritage, have the right to feel safe and welcome in our community," the statement said.

Tony Burke, Minister for Home Affairs, was quoted as saying, "There is no place in our country for people who seek to divide and undermine our social cohesion. Nothing could be less Australian."

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Anne Aly said, "Multiculturalism is an integral and valued part of our national identity." "We stand with all Australians, no matter where they were born, against those who seek to divide us and who seek to intimidate migrant communities. We will not be intimidated. This brand of far-right activism grounded in racism and ethnocentrism has no place in modern Australia," she added.

The March for Australia group's website says, "Our streets have seen growing displays of anti-Australian hatred, foreign conflicts, and disintegrating trust, whilst mass migration has torn at the bonds that held our communities together."

Europe hindering Trump's peace efforts on Ukraine: Kremlin

MOSCOW, REUTERS: The Kremlin said that European powers were hindering U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to achieve peace in Ukraine and that Russia would continue its operation in Ukraine until Moscow saw real signs that Kyiv was ready for peace.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian state media reporters that the "European party of war" was continuing to hinder U.S. and Russian efforts on Ukraine.

"We are ready to resolve the problem by political and diplomatic means," Peskov said. "But so far we do not see reciprocity from Kyiv in this. So we shall continue the special military operation."

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered tens of thousands of troops to invade Ukraine in February 2022 after eight years of fighting in eastern Ukraine between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian troops.

The United States says over 1.2 million people have been killed and injured in the war since 2022. Russia currently controls a little under one fifth of Ukraine.

European powers say that they do not believe Russian President wants peace in Ukraine.

Putin has repeatedly said he is ready to discuss peace but that Russia will not give up any of the land that it has taken in Ukraine.

Ukraine vows to retaliate Russian attack

Russian drone attacks on power facilities in Ukraine overnight left nearly 60,000 customers without electricity, with President Volodymyr Zelenskiy vowing to retaliate by ordering more strikes deep inside Russia.

Gachchhatu wins Fillies Stakes

HYDERABAD RESULTS

Gachchhatu, from the stables of Nilesh Rawal and ridden by Neeraj Rawal, won the Coromandel Gromor Deccan Fillies Championship Stakes, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Sunday.

1. Mahabubabad Plate - 1100M: Quick Bay Fox (Akshay Kumar) 1; Divine Faith (BR Kumar) 2; Faizah (Antony Raj) 3; Golden Bourbon (Kuldeep Singh) 4; WB: 1-1/2, 2, 3-1/4L; T: 1:08.84; TB: Srinivas Reddy; Fav: Divine Faith.

2. Belager Plate - 1600M: Shubhrak (Deepak Singh) 1; Politics (Naresh) 2; Amboseli (HM Akshay) 3; Deccan Ranger (B Nikhil) 4; WB: 3/4, 8-3/4, 1-1/2L; T: 1:44.02; TB: MF Ali Khan; Fav: City Cruise.

3. Nearco Plate - 1400M: Misty Night (RS Jodha) 1; Federer (HM Akshay) 2; Normui (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Tiger Ruby (Uday Kiran) 4; WB: 6-1/2, Nk, 3-1/2L; T: 1:27.90; TB: Satheesh; Fav: Misty Night.

4. Pakhal Lake Cup (Div II) - 1200M: Calabasas (Akshay Kumar) 1; Mexican Wave (RS Jodha) 2; Stars Envied (Naresh) 3; Shoolin (B Nikhil) 4; NR: Classy Dame; WB: 6, 1-1/4, 2L; T: 1:15.27; TB: Leo Desilva. Fav: Stars Envied.

5. Hidden BLoom Plate - 1400M: Sugar (Afroz Khan) 1; Decoy (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Encore (RS Jodha) 3; Maverick (Santosh Raj) 4; NR: Best Budd; WB: Nk, 2-1/4, 4-1/2L; T: 1:27.15; TB: Sequeira; Fav: Pleasant Star.

6. Coromandel Gromor Deccan Fillies Championship Stakes - 1600M: Gachchhatu (Neeraj Rawal) 1; Northern Wave (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Mountain Jewel (Kuldeep Singh) 3; Moon Star (Srinath) 4; WB: 2-1/4, Shd, 1-1/4L; T: 1:40.24; TB: Neelesh Rawal; Fav: Gachchhatu.

7. Pakhal Lake Cup (Div I) - 1200M: Star Of Opera (Mukesh Kumar) 1; American Flame (HM Akshay) 2; Top Class (Shivansh) 3; Lady Jane (Ekram Alam) 4; WB: Dist, 5-1/4, 4-3/4; T: 1:14.77; TB: Ramanathan; Fav: Star Of Opera.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 44w; 18, 10, 15p; Fc: Rs 96; Q: Rs 46; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 220 & 135; Ex: Rs 2,304 & 2,469.
II race: Rs 58w; Rs 15, 17, 12p; Fc: Rs 379; Q: Rs 145; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 1,070 & 399; Ex: Rs 25,993.
III race: Rs 15w; 10, 22, 12p; Fc: Rs 113; Q: Rs 69; Shp: Rs 46; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 142 & 34; Ex: Rs 493 & 309.
IV race: Rs 28w; 12, 13, 10p; Fc: Rs 115; Q: Rs 49; Shp: Rs 39; Thp: Rs 61; Tri: Rs 156 & 36; Ex: Rs 551 & 366.
V race: Rs 100w; 25, 15, 50p; Fc: Rs 659; Q: Rs 296; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 11,070 & 9,488; Ex: Rs 39,805 (c/o) & 17,059.
VI race: Rs 29w; 13, 36, 21p; Fc: Rs 260; Q: Rs 301; Shp: Rs 95; Thp: Rs 52; Tri: Rs 855 & 358; Ex: Rs 6,561 & 3,244.
VII race: Rs 11w; 11, 16, 16p; Fc: Rs 42; Q: Rs 58; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 119 & 65; Ex: Rs 1,165 & 710.
Jackpot: Rs 2,905 (69). **Runner-up:** Rs 999 (86). **I treble:** Rs 298 (12). **II treble:** Rs 828 (13).

Positano wins Idar Gold Trophy

PUNE RESULTS

Bengaluru challenger Positano, trained by Suleiman Attaollahi and ridden by Sandesh, won the Idar Gold Trophy, the feature event of the Pune races on Sunday.

1. Azzurro Plate - 1100M: Between Friends (P Dhebe) 1; Untitled (SA Amit) 2; We Still Believe (Pranil) 3; Continental Drift (Santosh) 4; WB: 3/4, 2-1/2, 1-1/4L; T: 1:04.92; TB: MK Jadhav; Fav: Purple Marini.

2. Jaidev Trophy - 1600M: Jade (Vivek G) 1; El Greco (Sandesh) 2; Golden Kingdom (Ramswarup) 3; Ruling Dynasty (Akshay Gaikwad) 4; WB: 2-1/2, 5, Dist; T: 1:38.44; TB: P Shrof; Fav: Jade.

3. Col Kaikushroo Maneckji Bharucha Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Giacomo (Sandesh 1); Emeber Tower (Jagadeesh) 2; Allez L'Etoile (Umesh) 3; Neutralist (Trevor Patel) 4; NR: Chelsea; WB: 6-1/4, 2-3/4, 1/2L; T: 1:25.82; TB: Dallas Todywalla; Fav: Neutralist.

4. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw Memorial Trophy - 1600M: The Milenium Force (Sandesh) 1; Wind Dancer (Bhosale) 2; Finch (Prakash) 3; Shirsa (SG Prasad) 4; WB: 7-3/4, 5-3/4, 2-1/2L; T: 1:38.86; TB: Pradeep Chouhan; Fav: The Milenium Force.

5. Southern Command Gold Trophy - 1400M: Money Fair (PP Dhebe) 1; Charlie Brown (Trevor Patel) 2; Miracle Of Hanukah (TS Jodha) 3; Jackson (Sandesh) 4; NR: Exciting & Gold Bar; WB: 1-3/4, 5-1/4, 2-1/4L; T: 1:26.62; TB: B Prithviraj; Fav: Charlie Brown.

6. Idar Gold Trophy - 2400M: Positano (Sandesh) 1; Dream Alliance (NS Parmar) 2; Arkadian (Vivek G) 3; Pyrite (TS Jodha) 4; Wb: 2, 3/4L, Lnk; T: 2:31.51; TB: Suleiman Attaollahi; Fav: Duke Of Tuscany.

7. Shivalik Showers Plate - 1200M: Fontana (Aditya Waydande) 1; Timeless Vision (A Prakash) 2; Fighton (NS Parmar) 3; Azrinaz (Sandesh) 4; Wb: 2-1/2L, Shd, L Nk; T: 1:08.49; TB: Pradeep Chouhan; Fav: Fontana.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 81w; 14, 24, 30p; Fc: Rs 2,485; Q: Rs 890; Shp: Rs 115; Thp: Rs 71; Tri: Rs 26,768 & 11,478; Ex: Rs 56,915 (c/o).
II race: Rs 13w; Rs 10, 13, p; Fc: Rs 15; Q: Rs 10; Shp: Rs 15; Thp: Rs 17; Tri: Rs 18, & 10.
III race: Rs 38w; 15, 23, 18p; Fc: Rs 367; Q: Rs 277; Shp: Rs 71; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 1,620 & 385; Ex: Rs 5,576 & 1,681.
IV race: Rs 12w; 10, 22p; Fc: Rs 34; Q: Rs 31; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 42 & 28; Ex: Rs 355 & 155.
V race: Rs 44w; 14, 10, 37p; Fc: Rs 117; Q: Rs 41; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 59; Tri: Rs 1,278 & 565; Ex: Rs 1,596 & 387.
VI race: Rs 37w; 14, 16, 10p; Fc: Rs 194; Q: Rs 213; Shp: Rs 52; Thp: Rs 49; Tri: Rs 744 & 319; Ex: 3,715 & 2,547
VII race: Rs 21w; 11, 16, 10p; Fc: Rs 70; Q: Rs 54; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 206 & 92; Ex: Rs 300 & 135.
Jackpot: Rs 1,091 (423).
Runner-up: Rs 213 (927).
Treble: Rs 170 (48)

High Heels set to stand tall

HYDERABAD SELECTIONS

The top-weighted High Heels, from the stables of Ravinder Singh, is expected to garner the maximum support in the upper division of the Asaf Jah VII Memorial Cup, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Monday. The first race starts at 1:55 pm.

1. Nice Fella Plate - 1400M: NRI Range 1; Dream To Fly 2; Eminency 3.
2. Mount Pleasant Plate - 1800M: Andre 1; Real Thalaivaa 2; Mrs Brando 3.
3. Asaf Jah VII Memorial Cup (Div II) - 1100M: Kalki 1; Exclusive Black 2; Sopranos 3.
4. Fateh Maidan Club Cup (Div I) - 1600M: NRI Triple Power 1; Gold Giver 2; Sadiya 3.
5. Asaf Jah VII Memorial Cup (Div I) - 1100M: High Heels 1; Shadow Fax 2; Crimson Flame 3.
6. Fateh Maidan Club Cup (Div II) - 1600M: Perfect Light 1; Bhairava 2; Desert Sultan 3.
Day's best: Andre.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **II treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Satwik-Chirag take bronze

Indian duo goes down to China's Chen, Liu in three games

PARIS, PTI

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (behind) and Chirag Shetty in action during the men's doubles semifinals at the BWF World Championships in Paris on Saturday. BWF

Top Indian pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty signed off with a bronze medal after going down fighting to China's 11th seeds Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the men's doubles semifinals of the World Championships here.

A day after assuring India of a medal, the former World No 1 duo's bid to become the first Indian men's doubles pair to reach the final of a world championships fell short as they lost 19-21, 21-18, 12-21 in a 67-minute battle on Saturday evening. This is the pair's second medal at the Worlds, having won a bronze in 2022.

On Friday, Asian Games champions Satwik and Chirag had stunned their nemesis, Malaysia's two-time Olympic medallists Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, in the quarterfinals to extend India's medal streak in the tournament, which began in 2011.

The Indians, however, could not break through the resolute defence of the Chinese pair, which retrieved relentlessly and countered with precision. Satwik and Chirag had first clinched a world championships bronze in Tokyo in 2022, a year after narrowly missing out on a medal at the Tokyo Olympics. Their second medal in the prestigious tournament also comes a year after an Olympic heartbreak at the Paris Games.

It also brought an end to India's campaign in the tournament.

"We didn't get really any rhythm. We didn't start off that well. We gave away easy points (in the third game). We should have been a bit smarter. But, credit to them. They served quite well, right from the start of the third game," Chirag said after the defeat.

"I think we could have made a few changes here and there, not really rush into the service, because they were also serving quite deep. But credit to them that they could put us out of place."

On his part, Satwik said, "They played with much more confidence, like we did in the first matches. Their body language... they were enjoying a little more than us. In the first game, even though we were leading, they were just giving what they have. I think that's what we did in the previous matches.

"Today, I think we played really well in patches, it's all about confidence, how strong you are mentally."

Satwik and Chirag had the Chinese on the ropes in the opening game, racing to a 9-3 lead with relentless attack and sharp interceptions. But Chen and Liu, defending flat and retrieving everything thrown at them, clawed back.

Chirag went wide on game point and although the Indians saved two, a blistering smash from the Chinese sealed it 21-19.

Switching sides brought a fresh burst as the Indians surged ahead 5-1 with clever judgements aided by drift. Satwik's smashes and Chirag's quick net play forced high lifts that they dispatched ruthlessly.

But then nerves crept in. Chirag erred repeatedly at the net, and Satwik was faulted on serve, allowing the Chinese to level at 16 all. Satwik's venomous smash and a fortunate net chord helped them eke out a 21-18 win to force a decider.

The third game, however, was one-way traffic. Liu's flick serve unsettled Chirag time and again as the Chinese stormed to a 9-0 lead. At the change of ends, India trailed 3-11 and never recovered.

Satwik tried to inject some fire with booming smashes, but misjudgments and errors mounted. Chen and Liu converted their third match point when Satwik's drive went long, wrapping up the contest 21-12.

It has been a consistent season for the world No. 3 pair that reached the semifinals at the Malaysia and India Open. But their season was also interrupted by setbacks, with Satwik grappling with health issues and Chirag sidelined by a back injury that kept them out for several weeks. Satwik also endured a personal loss with the death of his father in February.

Piastri dominates chaotic Dutch GP

Rival Norris suffers dramatic late breakdown

ZANDVOORT (NETHERLANDS), AFP

Oscar Piastri powered to victory at an incident-packed Dutch Formula One Grand Prix on Sunday, with home favourite Max Verstappen claiming second place as Piastri's McLaren teammate Lando Norris suffered a dramatic breakdown late in the race.

Piastri led from pole to chequered flag at the Zandvoort circuit in a race that saw the safety car deployed several times to stretch his lead over Norris to 34 points in the championship race.

Racing Bulls' 20-year-old French rookie Isack Hadjar finished third to become the fifth youngest podium finisher of all time.

It was Piastri's sixth Grand Prix victory of the season and cemented the Australian's status as the man to catch in this year's drivers' championship.

A thrilling start saw Verstappen, who started third on the grid, overtake Norris before briefly losing control of his Red Bull. To the cheers of tens of thousands of his "Orange Army" fans, Verstappen recovered brilliantly to settle in behind Piastri, who got off to a clean start.

But the faster race pace of the McLaren quickly told, and Norris passed the Dutchman on his left-hand side in lap nine to restore the one-two for the papaya team.

The big unknown in the run-up to the race had been the weather at the famously unpredictable circuit just a stone's throw from the North Sea coast.

The first rain began to fall around lap 15 of 72, and just 10 laps later, it claimed its first victim, as seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton slid his Ferrari off the track into the barriers.

The safety car deployment bunched up the field again but Piastri held off his determined teammate Norris, who in turn kept Verstappen at bay in third. Behind the front-runners.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri celebrates with the Dutch GP trophy on Sunday. AFP

Badoni double guides North

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ayush Badoni

Ayush Badoni struck a fluent double century as North Zone comfortably booked their place in the Duleep Trophy semifinals, advancing on the basis of a commanding first-innings lead in their quarterfinal clash against East Zone, which ended in a predictable draw on Sunday.

Meanwhile, veteran pacer Mohammed Shami, who bowled 11 overs in the second innings, was kept off the field due to a minor toe injury, while Mukesh Kumar missed bowling duties after a thigh niggle. East skipper Riyan Parag confirmed the precautionary move, citing Shami's discomfort after rolling his foot.

Resuming at 388 for two, North showed no urgency to declare, piling up 658 for four to secure a massive 833-run lead before both captains agreed to shake hands. Badoni remained unbeaten on 204 runs off 223 balls, alongside Kanhaiya Wadhawan (23 not out), marking his second first-class double hundred in style.

The young batter, who resumed on 56, brought up his hundred off 123 deliveries with a calm single before moving to 99 with a six and eventually sealing his double century with a boundary. Skipper Ankit Kumar (198) missed out on his own milestone when he miscued a pull shot to be caught at mid-on, but not before sharing a 150-run stand with Badoni for the third wicket.

. Badoni accelerated in the final hour, scoring 54 off 55 balls to complete his landmark knock.

Auqib Nabi, who bagged a five-wicket haul including a hat-trick in East's first innings, was named Player of the Match. Despite their commanding position, North chose not to pursue an outright win.

Central through to semis

North East Zone produced a spirited batting effort on the final day to deny Central Zone a win, though the latter advanced to the Duleep Trophy semifinals courtesy of a commanding first-innings lead.

Set a daunting target of 679, NE Zone closed their second innings at 200/6, ensuring the match ended in a draw. Central Zone had earlier posted 532/4 in their first innings before bundling out North East Zone for just 185, gaining a massive 347-run lead. Declaring their second innings at 331/7, Central left their opponents with an improbable chase.

Azharuddeen skipper

Mohammed Azharuddeen replaced Tilak Varma on Sunday as the South Zone captain for the Duleep Trophy semifinal against North Zone, starting at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on September 4, reports DHNS.

Tilak Varma, who was originally named the South skipper, will not be playing the Duleep Trophy after he was named in the India squad for the upcoming Asia Cup.

Brief scores: North Zone: (O/n: 388/2) 658/4 in 146.2 overs (Ankit Kumar 198, Yash Dhull 133, Ayush Badoni 204 n.o., Nishant Sidhu 68) vs East Zone: 230. North East Zone: 185 & 200/6 in 58 overs (Jehu Anderson 64, Rongsen Jonathan 60; Harsh Dubey 2/53, Aditya Thakare 2/21, Shubham Sharma 2/10) vs Central Zone: 532 & 331/7.

Mohith Belavadi (left) and Sakshya Santhosh pose with their spoils.

Mohith, Sakshya clinch U-13 titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohith Deepak Belavadi and Sakshya Santhosh emerged champions in the boys' and girls' U-13 singles events respectively in the Vinaya Kotian Memorial State-ranking table tennis tournament on Sunday.

LOCAL TABLE TENNIS

Mohith put on a display fine to beat Deepak Vinay In the girls' summit clash, Sakshya Santhosh held her nerve to defeat Lakshmi Aashritha

Results: Boys' U-13 singles: Mohith Deepak Belavadi bt Deepak Vinay 11-6, 14-12, 7-11, 13-11.
Girls' U-13 singles: Sakshya Santhosh bt Lakshmi Aashritha 11-6, 12-14, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7.

Untouchable Hassan, Kiros smash course records

SYDNEY, AFP: Untouchable Olympic champion Sifan Hassan shattered the course record on Sunday to surge home first in an historic Sydney Marathon, with Hailemaryam Kiros matching her feat in the men's race.

Run for the first time as one of the elite World Marathon Majors, Hassan was utterly dominant, clocking a blistering 2hrs 18min 22sec ahead of Kenya's former world record holder Brigid Kosgei (2:18.56).

Ethiopia's Workenesh Edesa Gurmesa, who came third, won the race last year in a then-record time, but Dutch multi-distance superstar Hassan obliterated it by more than three minutes.

Hassan, who will skip September's World Athletics Championships in Tokyo after opting to prioritise Sydney, admitted she almost misjudged her race.

Sifan Hassan

"I pushed too hard and I learnt a lesson," said the Ethiopian-born 32-year-old who has also won majors at London and Chicago. "I was so done the last 10k.

"It's amazing, I'm really grateful," she added.

"I'm so happy to win with a course record. It's history, it's the first major marathon (in Sydney) and I'm the first winner."

Yamaguchi cruises to third world title

PARIS, AFP: Akane Yamaguchi beat former world No. 1 Chen Yufei of China 21-9, 21-13 on Sunday to win the women's singles badminton world championship final.

The Japanese fifth seed rarely looked troubled on court in Paris and needed just 37 minutes to add a third world title to her gold medals from 2021 and 2022.

Chen, a Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist, battled past top seed and reigning champion An Se-young of South Korea in a semifinal win marked by a nasty-looking ankle twist early in the second game.

The 27-year-old received treatment on the court Saturday and went immediately to have her ankle examined. after the match. Shi Yuqi of China takes Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the final.

Neeraj headlines Indian squad for World C'ships

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's Neeraj Chopra will be hoping to defend his javelin throw title in the World Championships, scheduled to be held in Tokyo from September 13-21. REUTERS

The Athletics Federation of India on Sunday announced a 19-member squad (14 men and 5 women) for the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo from September 13-21.

Only three of the athletes — namely Gulveer Singh (5000m), Praveen Chithravel (triple jump) and Parul Chaudhary (3000m steeplechase) — directly qualified by breaching the World Athletics' standards, while the rest of them made it through either World Rankings or WA invitation.

Javelin star Neeraj Chopra remains the brightest medal hope as he looks to defend his title after his maiden gold success in 2023 Budapest. His wild card entry as defending champion paved the way for the inclusion of three further javelin throwers — namely Sachin Yadav, Yash Vir Singh, Rohit Yadav — based on their World Rankings.

Rohit, who was ranked 37th, was squeezed in late in the 36-athlete event as 35th-ranked Manu Quijera of Spain failed to breach his nation's set qualification standard of 82.70m and wasn't included in the squad.

This also marks the first instance when four Indian javelin throwers will compete together at the Worlds after three of them competed in Hungary, including Kishore Jena and Manu DP.

Among other firsts, 200m sprinter Animesh Kujur and 110m hurdler Tejas Shirse are all set to make India's first appearances in the respective events. While Kujur made the cut through rankings, Shirse, currently ranked 63rd, earned WA's invitation for the 40-man event.

Also, injured Avinash Sable, Nandini Agasara and Akshdeep Singh could not make the list despite qualification. Chief coach Radha Krishnan Nair also confirmed that the squad will reach Tokyo 10 days before the event and a camp will be held in the city on September 4-9. Neeraj, who is currently training with coach Jan Zelezny in the Czech Republic since July, will join the camp on September 5.

Squad: Men: Neeraj Chopra, Sachin Yadav, Yash Vir Singh, Rohit Yadav (javelin throw); Tejas Shirshe (110m hurdles); Gulveer Singh (5000m & 10000m); Praveen Chithravel, Abdulla Aboobacker (triple jump); Sarvesh Kushare (high jump); Animesh Kujur (200m); M Sreeshankar (long jump); Servin Sebastiyan (20km race walk); Ram Baboo, Sandeep Kumar (35km race walk).
Women: Annu Rani (javelin throw); Parul Chaudhary, Ankita (3000m steeplechase); Priyanka (35km race walk); Pooja (1500m & 800m).

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TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender through KPP Portal for the following:

Sl. No.	Indent No:	Name of the Tender	Bid Documents available from	Last date for submission of Bids	Opening of Bid Document
1.	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0160(BESCOM/ BCP-1614/2025-26)	Supply of FRP Telescopic Discharge Rod	04.09.2025	04.10.2025 17:00 Hrs	06.10.2025 11:00 Hrs
2.	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0161 (BESCOM/ BCP-1615/2025-26)	Supply of Rubber Hand gloves SEAMLESS Confirming to ISS for electrical purpose	04.09.2025	19.09.2025 17:00 Hrs	20.09.2025 17:15 Hrs
3	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0162 (BESCOM/ BCP-1616/2025-26)	Supply of Hi Visibility Reflective Rain Wear	04.09.2025	04.10.2025 17:00 Hrs	06.10.2025 11:00 Hrs
4	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0163 (BESCOM/ BCP-1617/2025-26)	Supply of Hi Visibility Reflective Jacket	04.09.2025	19.09.2025 17:00 Hrs	20.09.2025 17:15 Hrs
5	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0164 (BESCOM/ BCP-1618/2025-26)	Supply of Electrical Safety Helmet attached with Electronic induction Tester	04.09.2025	19.09.2025 17:00 Hrs	20.09.2025 17:15 Hrs
6	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0165 (BESCOM/ BCP-1619/2025-26)	Supply of Insulated GOS Operating Handle/Rod	04.09.2025	19.09.2025 17:00 Hrs	20.09.2025 17:15 Hrs
7	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0166 (BESCOM/ BCP-1620/2025-26)	Supply of FRP wall Extension ladder	04.09.2025	19.09.2025 17:00 Hrs	20.09.2025 17:15 Hrs

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HOCKEY ASIA CUP

India find their mojo against Japan

Harmanpreet stars as hosts qualify for the Super4s

HITA PRAKASH
RAJGIR, DHNS

A little less of the key ingredients in the overall performance had India escape with a narrow win against China in their Asia Cup opener. On Sunday, however, the hosts put together the right components to score a 3-2 win over Japan at the Bihar Sports University Hockey Stadium here.

Though the scoreline displays a goal difference of just one, similar to that of the first match 4-3, the Harmanpreet Singh-led India commanded the proceedings throughout the 60-minute contest. The lack of finishing touches despite multiple opportunities robbed India from adding more goals.

It was forward Mandeep Singh (4th) who first struck for India through a field goal before flick expert and captain Harmanpreet (5th, 45th) converted two penalty corners out of the total six the team earned. For the visitors, attacker Kosei Kawabe (38th, 59th) scored both the goals. The win sealed India's place in the Super4s.

The days in the quaint Bihar town have been experiencing temperatures in the 30s accompanied by humidity wavering in the 70% range. Coach Craig Fulton had hoped for the weather gods to be generous and his wish was granted with clouds covering the skies for the entirety of the match which kicked off at 3 pm. The Japanese, though, found the heat turned up by their Indian counterparts too hot to handle.

India pressed hard right from the opening hooter to keep the chock-a-block crowd, especially behind the Japanese goal post, on their feet. Following a few missed targets, a running ball by Sumit was passed from the left flank to Jarmanpreet Singh who then pushed it to Sukhjeet Singh that was fed to Mandeep who slotted in the opening goal. Moments later, the skipper converted in the fourth attempt of four back-to-back penalty corners to put India ahead by 2-0.

On the other end, Indian goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak was, for most parts of the first quarter, left deserted. But when challenged on rare occasions, the 28-year-old - playing his 150th game for the country - made as many as three saves in the first 15 minutes.

It was Pathak's fellow 28-year-old keeper colleague Suraj Kakera's turn to be the bystander while guarding the post in the second quarter. Both sides unable to hold on to possession or challenge deep ends had the scoreboard stagnant at 2-0 at halftime.

The third quarter appeared to be turning into Indian team's Achilles heel. The 26-year-old Kawabe, who had netted a brace against Kazakhstan in Japan's 7-0 win, took the responsibility of pumping life into his withering team and shortened the deficit to one. The spring in Japan's step didn't last long as Harmanpreet decided to dampen their gusto with his flick finding the back of the net in the dying seconds of the third.

The fourth looked more of a formality for the Indian players on the field allowing the spectators to focus more on their singing and dancing skills for a mix of Bhojpuri and Hindi chartbusters. Even Kawabe's second strike to threaten India in the final moments failed to stop that party.

India next take on Kazakhstan, who were defeated 1-13 by China on Sunday, in their final Pool A game on Monday.

Results: Pool A: India: 3 (Mandeep Singh 4th, Harmanpreet Singh 5th, 45th) bt Japan: 2 (Kosei Kawabe 38th, 59th); China: 13 (Shihao Du 10th, 53rd, Qijun Chen 13th, Changliang Lin 15th, 39th, Benhai Chen 29th, 56th, Yuanlin Lu 31st, 42nd, 44th, Jiesheng Gao 33rd, Xiaolong Guo 41st, 58th) bt Kazakhstan: 1 (Agymtay Duisengazy 2nd).

India's Harmanpreet Singh (left) celebrates with Sumit after scoring against Japan during their Asia Cup game in Rajgir. PTI

Fulton focused on the process

HITA PRAKASH
RAJGIR, DHNS

The only takeaway from the scoreboard for India coach Craig Fulton was 'Indian won the match'. The other detail - the number of goals scored by each side - isn't something he likes dwelling on, the South African stressed after India's 3-2 win against Japan at the Asia Cup in Rajgir on Sunday.

"If we had won 8-0 today, we'd still get three points. If we won by one goal, we would still get three points.

"But I look behind the results. I look at the process of what we're trying to do, where we're going, and then we need to just be super humble and super patient, but keep working hard, and hopefully it'll turn out well."

In a more sharp display of hockey, than they did during their opener against China, India kept the Japanese at bay. The methodical attack structure seemed to be working until the final stages. More misses than hits but Fulton is unperturbed.

Craig Fulton

"You know, they (Japan) play a low man-to-man and it's difficult to break it down, and you have to be super patient. But the structure is the first prize. If we get that right, then it gives us opportunities. And then PC's were the way to go. But the first goal, I was really happy with."

Dilpreet Singh in both the games has shown the right intent inside the 'D' but has performed without reward. Speaking about the younger strikers coming of age, the 50-year-old, again, chooses to remain patient.

"All of the strikers are just about there. It's coming. It's like you've just put the roast in the oven, and now you're just waiting for it to come good. They're doing well. We're playing with the plan. It's a bit frustrating for everyone that we can't finish what we start, and we'd love to do that for the crowd, but it'll come."

India's final Pool A encounter will be against minnows Kazakhstan.

Guler sparks Real turnaround; Alaves hold Atletico

BARCELONA, AFP: Real Madrid claimed a third straight La Liga victory with a 2-1 triumph over Real Mallorca on Saturday to continue their perfect start to the campaign.

Atletico Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw at Alaves, leaving them without a win in their first three La Liga matches.

Arda Guler **(in pic)** and Vinicius Junior scored in quick succession for Los Blancos after Mallorca's Vedat Muriqi had opened the scoring at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Xabi Alonso's Madrid also had three more goals ruled out as they continued to improve following the coach's arrival at the start of the summer.

After competing in the Club World Cup and not having much of a pre-season, winning all their games before the first international break is an impressive feat for Alonso.

"With good team spirit we managed to turn the game around," Alonso told Real Madrid TV.

"I'm very happy with this start... We wanted this, we knew we were lacking minutes (under our belt) and some matches."

Alonso brought Vinicius Junior and Trent Alexander-Arnold back into the starting line-up after both began last weekend's win at Real Oviedo on the bench.

Kylian Mbappe, who has started the season in fine form with three league goals, thought he had broken the deadlock early on after a fine pass from Alexander-Arnold but was judged to be offside.

Mallorca took a surprise lead after 18 minutes when Muriqi used his shoulder to divert a corner past Thibaut Courtois.

It was the first goal Madrid had conceded in La Liga this season after two clean sheets in their opening victories.

Alonso's side responded with two goals in under two minutes.

Dean Huijsen headed Alvaro Carreras' cross into the six-yard box for Arda Guler to nod home in the 37th minute.

With Mallorca rocking, Vinicius surged into space, broke into the box and scuffed a finish into the bottom corner.

Mbappe could have extended Madrid's lead before the break but nudged wide from close range and then had a second goal ruled out for offside.

Bright summer signing Franco Mastantuono fired narrowly over early in the second half on the 18-year-old's first Santiago Bernabeu start, during which he showed few nerves.

The Argentine attacker was involved in Madrid's third disallowed goal of the night after some superb footwork in the box, before he forced Roman into a save, and Guler eventually turned home.

Results: Real Madrid: 2 (Arda Guler 37th, Vinicius Jr 38th) bt Mallorca: 1 (Vedat Muriqi 18th); Deportivo Alaves: 1 (Carlos Vincente 14th) drew with Atletico Madrid: 1 (Giuliano Simeone 7th).

IN BRIEF

K'taka Jr Nationals teams named

Harshan Y and Nidhi Srinivas will lead the Karnataka boys and girls' sides at the 75th Junior National Basketball Championship to be held at Ludhiana in Punjab from September 2, reports DHNS.

Teams: Boys: Harshan Y (c), Likith Bopanna, Ayyan Ali, Shreyas, Vaibhav Gowda, Bathesh, Samarath M, Netla Chanakya, Divith Amin, Anik Lakra, Nishanth, Ronak.S, Head Coach: Thankachan MC, Coach: Sachin Belvadi, Manager Rajive MV
Girls: Nidhi Srinivas (c), Nidhi Umesh , Tisha, Taarushee Tarun, Shreya V, Ishitha Gowda, Ananya G, Purvi Shika, Anitha BR, Manasa TA, Shreya S, Coach: Sathyanarayana K, Manager: Shankar Sure, Physiotherapy: Dr. Bhavana

Aanya-Angel win doubles title

Indian pair of Aanya Bisht and Angel Punera produced a spirited performance to clinch the girls' doubles title with an upset win over the fifth-seeded Japanese duo Aoi Banno and Yuzu Ueno at the India Junior International Grand Prix Badminton Tournament on Sunday, reports PTI from Pune.

HBR, MEGC enter final

HBR BC edged past Chikkamagaluru 80-78 in a nail-biting semifinal league match of the State C Division League at Kanteerava Courts on Sunday, reports DHNS. Nishanth (34 points) starred for HBR, while Rishab (15) fought hard for Chikkamagalur. MEG & Centre and HBR BC advanced to the finals, earning promotion to B Division 2026.

Results: HBR BC: 80 (Nishanth 34, Shashidhar 15) bt Chikkamagalur district: 78 (Rishab 15, Rehan 12) Ht 46-38; MEG & Centre: 70 (Amal Steny 24, Juval John 16) bt Mysore district 46 (Shakthi 13, Kshithij 10) HT: 49-19; MEG & Centre: 90 (Amal Steny 21, Juval John 20) bt Chikkamagalur district: 56 (Navin 18) HT: 45-37; HBR BC: 77 (Sai Sanketh 26, Nishanth 20) bt Mysore district: 65(Sarthak 20, Kshithij 13) HT: 46-28.

Sinner aces the Shapovalov test

Zverev falls to Auger-Aliassime in a new low, Swiatek fights off Kalinskaya

NEW YORK, AFP

Jannik Sinner kept his US Open title defence on track on Saturday as Iga Swiatek struggled through to the last 16 and home favourite Coco Gauff booked a blockbuster clash with Naomi Osaka.

Sinner rallied from a set down to beat Canadian 27th seed Denis Shapovalov 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 and is trying to become the first man to retain the title in New York since Roger Federer in 2008.

"I was in a very difficult moment," said Sinner. "The scoreline was a bit against me today, but I just tried to stay there mentally."

World number one Sinner will face Alexander Bublik next after the mercurial Kazakh put out US 14th seed Tommy Paul in a late-night thriller, winning in five sets.

Third seed Alexander Zverev fell to his earliest US Open exit in seven years at the hands of an inspired Felix Auger-Aliassime. Canada's Auger-Aliassime belted 50 winners but was a point away from going two sets down before outduelling Zverev 4-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4, 6-4.

Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime celebrates after defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev in the third round. REUTERS

Auger-Aliassime next takes on Andrey Rublev, who put an end to the fairytale run of Hong Kong's Coleman Wong in five sets.

There were three more retirements in the men's draw on Saturday after the injury-induced exit of sixth seed Ben Shelton the day before. Alex de Minaur, Lorenzo Musetti and 435th-ranked Swiss qualifier Leandro Riedi all moved on when their opponents threw in the towel.

Eighth seed De Minaur led Daniel Altmaier 6-7 (7/9), 6-3, 6-4, 2-0 when the German retired, while 10th seed Musetti held a two-set lead over Flavio Cobolli before the latter quit because of an arm injury.

Swiatek showed great resolve to dig herself out of trouble against Russian 29th seed Anna Kalinskaya under the lights of Arthur Ashe Stadium. The World No 2 slid 5-1 behind in the opening set but saved four set points and won a tie-break before eventually seeing off Kalinskaya 7-6 (7/2), 6-4. Russian 13th seed Alexandrova has never made it past the fourth round at a Grand Slam but destroyed Laura Siegemund 6-0, 6-1 and has surrendered just 10 games en route to the second week at Flushing Meadows.

Gauff to face Osaka

Gauff swept past Polish 28th seed Magdalena Frech 6-3, 6-1 in her most polished display of the tournament to boost her hopes of collecting a second US Open title.

Results: (Prefix denotes seeding): Men: 3rd Round: 1-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt 27-Denis Shapovalov (Can) 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; 23-Alexander Bublik (Kaz) bt 14-Tommy Paul (Usa) 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1; 10-Lorenzo Musetti (Ita) bt 24-Flavio Cobolli (Ita) 6-3, 6-2, 2-0 - retired; 15-Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt Coleman Wong (Hkg) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; 25-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt 3-Alexander Zverev (Ger) 4-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4, 6-4.
Women: 27-Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Diane Parry (Fra) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; 11-Karolina Muchova (Cze) bt 21-Linda Noskova (Cze) 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-2; 23-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt 15-Daria Kasatkina (Aus) 6-0, 4-6, 6-3; 3-Coco Gauff (USA) bt 28-Magdalena Frech (Pol) 6-3, 6-1; 8-Amanda Anisimova (USA) bt Jaqueline Cristian (Rom) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; 2-Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt 29-Anna Kalinskaya (Rus) 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

Ostapenko issues an apology

NEW YORK, AFP

Jelena Ostapenko issued an apology on Saturday for her US Open tirade at Taylor Townsend that triggered accusations of racism.

The Latvian player sparked uproar on Wednesday after her angry on-court rant following her defeat to African American player Townsend in the second round.

Ostapenko accused Townsend of having "no education" and "no class", remarks that prompted a social media backlash accusing her of racism. Ostapenko, who had already issued a separate statement denying racism, said on Saturday she could see how her "no education" comment had caused offence.

"I wanted to apologise for some of the things I said during my second round singles match," Ostapenko wrote

"English is not my native language, so when I said education, I was speaking about what I believe was tennis etiquette, but I understand how the words I used could have offended many people beyond the court.

DAY TO SAVOUR

(From left) Former umpire BR Keshava Murthy, sports journalists Satish Vishwanathan and Vedam Jaishankar, and former umpires AK Narasimhan and Vikram Raju release a souvenir during the golden jubilee celebrations of the Association of Cricket Umpires Karnataka at KSCA on Sunday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Determined India take on formidable Iran

HISOR, PTI: Boosted by the win against co-host Tajikistan in the campaign opener in new head coach Khalid Jamil's maiden international match, India will aim to challenge the might of Asian giants Iran when the two teams clash in the CAFA Nations Cup here on Monday.

India beat higher-ranked Tajikistan 2-1 on Friday with goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu executing some stunning saves as the team, competing in the tournament for the first time, gave a good account of itself ahead of the crucial Asian Cup qualifying round matches against Singapore on October 9 and 14.

Despite missing several Mohun Bagan Super Giant players, who were not released by the club on the ground that the tournament does not strictly fall in the FIFA international match window, and the absence of star striker Sunil Chhetri, Indian stalwarts Anwar Ali and Sandesh Jhingan rose to the occasion to slot home.

Jamil, who is on his maiden assignment with the team after being appointed head coach recently, said the victory against 106th ranked Tajikistan was a testament to team work.

But an even bigger task awaits his side as Iran is ranked 20th, making it a challenging contest.

Jamil said the team will draw inspiration from the win against Tajikistan.

Dominik Szoboszlai celebrates after scoring a free-kick in Liverpool's 1-0 win over Arsenal at Anfield. REUTERS

Szoboszlai stunner sees Reds home

LONDON, AFP

Dominik Szoboszlai's brilliant free-kick fired Liverpool to a dramatic 1-0 win over title rivals Arsenal, while Manchester City suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at Brighton that extended their troubled start to the season on Sunday.

Szoboszlai curled a sublime set-piece past Arsenal keeper David Raya with seven minutes left at Anfield in a tense clash between the two leading contenders for the Premier League crown. The Hungary midfielder's gem was enough to seal a third successive league victory for champions Liverpool as Arsenal lost for the first time this term following consecutive wins.

Arsenal finished as runners-up behind Liverpool last season and the clubs have been engaged in an expensive arms race since the end of the season.

A host of high-profile signings aimed at tilting the balance of power in the title race have arrived at Anfield and the Emirates Stadium.

City struggle

Earlier, at the Amex Stadium, City striker Erling Haaland marked his 100th Premier League appearance with his 88th goal in the competition since joining from Borussia Dortmund in 2022.

But the 25-year-old's third goal this season wasn't enough to help Pep Guardiola's side bounce back from last weekend's 2-0 home loss to Tottenham.

James Milner's second half penalty hauled Brighton level before Brajan Gruda's late strike completed City's collapse.

Haaland pierced the Brighton defence in the 34th minute, stabbing past Bart Verbruggen from close-range. after Omar Marmoush prodded the ball.

Results: Liverpool: 1 (Szoboszlai 83rd) bt Arsenal: 0; Brighton: 2 (James Milner 67th, Brajan Gruda 89th) bt Manchester City: 1 (Erling Haaland 34th); Nottingham Forest: 0 lt to West Ham 3 (Jarrod Bowen 84th, Lucas Paqueta 88th, Callum Wilson 90+1st).

ON TV

TENNIS
US Open: Round of 16 **(8:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

HOCKEY
Asia Cup: Bangladesh vs Korea **(1:30 pm)**, Malaysia vs Taipei **(3:30 pm)**, China vs Japan **(5:30 pm)**, India vs Kazakstan **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

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